DANGEROUS CONNECTIONS:

OR.

LETTERS

COLLECTED IN A SOCIETY,

PUBLISHED FOR THE INSTRUCTION OF OTHER SOCIETIES.

By M. C **** DE L ***.

I have observed the Manners of the Times, and have wrote those Letters.

J. J. ROUSSEAU. Pref. to the New Eloife.

VOL. IV.



LONDON:

PRINTED FOR T. HOOKHAM,
At his Circulating Library, New Bond Street,
Corner of BRUTON STREET,
M.DCC, LEEN'S,

CÓMNECETUS CÓMNECOSONS:

20

COLUMN PROCEERS

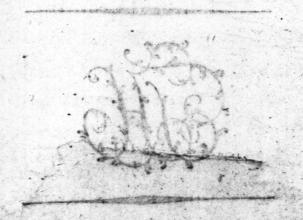
Control and the control of the contr

By M. Chart pe Take.

t hose obliged the Meaners of the Times, and have wrose each, Letters.

. J. Ravescau. Pref. to the New Blode.

VI LOV



LONDON:
TRIETED FOR S. MARNING MARN.
A his Checker Description Streets.

October & Market.

ble virtue can augment a woman's value even at the time of her wealtnets ? -- Avanne flich pungille ideas-DANGEROU queil? Vet I never experienced the CONNECTIONS. although I have had fire of weakness with this amazing woman, which very inscir relembers war partitled imons passion, I ever subdoed them LETTE BOR OCCESSVIN Sons even the feene of vetherday floudd Viscount de WALMONT to the Marchiohad Learned wir Telulonne I bad toxication I railed; that transitory illu-AT last this haughty woman is conquered, who dared think the could relist me. - She is mine - totally mine She has nothing left to grant' fince yellerday. My happiness is so great I cannot

appreciate it, but am altonished at the

unknown

Vol. IV.

unknown charm I feel: - Is it postible virtue can augment a woman's value even at the time of her weakness? - Avaunt such puerile ideas don't we every day meet relifance more or less feigned at the first conquest? Yet I never experienced the charm I mean; it is not love - for although I have had fits of weakness with this amazing woman, which very much refembled that pulillanimous passion, I ever subdued them and returned to my first rules - if even the scene of yesterday should have led me farther than I intended; had I partook for a moment of the intoxication I raised, that transitory illufion would have been now evaporated. yet still the same charm remains - I own I should be pleased to indulge it, if it did not give me some uneasiness: - At my age must I then be mastered like a school-boy by an unknown and involuntary fentiment?-I must

White day

Perhaps. Il already see into the cause the idea pleases me - I wish it may be true and another it may be true and another in a state of the state of

Among the multitude of women with whom I have played the part of a lover, I never met any who were not as well inclined to furrender as I was to perfuade them — I used even to call those prudes who met me but half way, in contrast to so many others, whose provoking defence is intended as a cloak to their first advances.

But here I found an unfavourable prepoffession against me, afterwards confirmed on the report and advice of a penetrating woman who hated me; a natural, excessive timidity, fortissed with genuine modesty; a strong attachment to virtue under the powerful direction of religion, and who had already been married two years — an unfullied character — the result of

thate causes, which all conded to screen

It is not any way fimilar to my formervadventures -- a mere capitulation more or less advantageous, which is cafier to be acquired than to be vain of but this is a complete victory purchafed byway hard campaigh, and decided by fkilful maneeuvres, therefore in is novat a 1 furpriling; this fuccefs, folely my own acquificion, fhould be deap to me; and the increase of pleafure Is experienced in my veriamph, which I fill feel, is no more than the soft impression of a sentiment of glory. I indulge this thought as it lives me the humiliation of transduring the idea? of my being dependent on the very flave I have brought under fubjection," as well as the dilagreeable thoughts of not having within myfelp the plent tude of my happines, or that the power of calling it forth into energy and making me fully enjoy it, should ins's

CONNECTIONS.

be revived for this on that we man ex-

Thefe judicious reflections finall regulate my conduct on this important occasion, and you may depend, I shall never suffer myself to be to cap tivated, but that I may at plealine break abofe meve bonds ? --- Altroads Isbegin to talk of a nipher, and has not yet informed you how I saggiored the powers - proceed sind you will fee to what dangers mildom expoles itself endeavouring to laffish folly --I studied my conversation and the anfivers to them with fo much accomion I hope to be able to give you both with the unnot exactionated it on the You will observe by the annexed copies of letters, what kind of mediator I fixed on to gain me admits tance with my fair ones with awhat zeal the holy main skercifed humlelf The letvant who had howed me in,

Letters cax and canis.

dasim

I learned from an intercepted letter, according to custom, the dread the humiliation of being lest, had a little disconcerted the austere devotee's prudence, and stuffed her head and heart with ideas and sentiments which, though destitute of common sense, were nevertheless interesting — After these preliminaries necessary to be related, yesterday, Thursday the 28th, the day appointed by my ingrate, I presented myself as a timid and repentant slave, to settre a successful conqueror.

It was fix in the evening when I came to the fair recluse; for fince her teturn, her gates were shut against every one. She endeavoured to rise when I was announced; but her trembling knees being unable to support her, she was obliged to sit down immediately. The servant who had showed me in, having something to do in the apartment.

ment, she seemed impatient. This interval was taken up with the usual compliments. Not to lose a moment of fo precious an opportunity, I examined the room carefully, and fixed my eye on the intended foot for my victory. I could have chose a more commodious one; for there was a fopha in the room: but I observed directly opposite to it a picture of the hufband; and I own I was afraid with fo strange a woman, a fingle glance, which accidentally the might cast on that fide, would in an instant have destroyed a work of so much care. At last we were alone, and I entered on the business.

After relating in few words, I supposed Father Anselmus had informed her the motive of my visit, I lamented the rigorous treatment I received, and dwest particularly on the contempt that had been shewn. She made an apology, as I expected, and you also:

but I grounded the proof on the diffidence and dread I had infused; on the scandalous flight in consequence of it, the refusal to answer my letters, or even receive them, &c. &c. the was beginning a justification, which would have been very easy, I thought proper to interrupt her; and to compensate for this abrupt behaviour, I immediately threw in a flat-tery, " If such charms," said I, have made so deep an impression " on my heart, so many virtues have " made as great a one on my mind. Seduced by the delire of imitating " them, I had the vanity to think my-" felf worthy of them. I do not re-" proach you for thinking otherwife; " but I punish myself for my error." As the preferred a filent perplexity I " I wish, Madam, to be went on. in justified in your fight, or obtain your pardon for all the wrongs you " suppose me to have been guilty of;

er that

"that I may, at least, terminate it tranquillity a life which is no lone ger supportable fince you refuse to " embellif it." Loilger syad bloods

To this however, the endeavoured to reply, if My ducy would not permit me," The difficulty to finish the fib which duty required, did not allow her to end she fentence, it l'replied in the most render strain !! Is " in true, then, rit swas me you fled " from a like in retreat was ned ".- Jand that you should put and 4 strong your is must be following " for ever ... I famuld" It is unsecessary to tell you, during this short dialogue, the tender prude's voice was oppressed, and the did not raise her abandering carrielle thus. Edegueray

I thought it was time to animate this languishing former and rifing in a pet, - " Your refolution, Madam," faid It fe has given me back mine. "I We will part and part for every ban I

B 5 " you

"you wall have leifure to congratu" st late yourself on your work." Surprifed with this reproaching tone, the should have replied - " The resolu-" tion you have taken," faid the -" Is only the effect of despair," I replied with paffion. " It is your plea-" fure I should be miserable - you "Mall have the full extent of your wish. I wish you to be happy." Here the voice began to announce a frang emotion : then falling at her knees in the dramatic ftyle, I exclaimed, "Ah, cruel woman l Can there be happiness for me that you " do not partake? How then shall " I find it, when absent from you? "Ob, never, never!" - I own, in abandoning myself thus, I depended much on the affiftance of tears; but, whether for want of disposition, or, perhaps, only the continual, painful attention my mind was engaged in, I could not weep. Fortunately I recollected,

feeted, all means are equally good to subdue a woman; and it would be fufficient to affonish her by a grand movement, to make a deep and fa-vourable impression. I therefore made terror supply the place of absent sensibility; changing only my tone, but still preferving my posture, I continued, "Yes, at your feet I swear I will die or posses you." As I pronounced those last words our eyes mer. I don't know what the timidwoman law, or thought the faw, in mine; but the role with a terrified countenance, and escaped from my arms, which furrounded her wailt : it it is true, I did not attempt to hold her; for I have often observed, those fcenes of despair became ridiculous when pushed with too much vivacity. or lengthened out, and left no resource but what was really tragic, of which I had not the least idea. Whilst she fled from me, I added in a low dif-B 6 aftrous

works

astrous tone, but so that she might hear, "Well then, death."

I rose filently, and casting a wild look on her, as if by chance, nevertheless observed her unsteady deportment, her quick respiration, her contracted muscles, her trembling, halfraifed arms; every thing gave me fufficient evidence, the effect was such as I wished to produce: but as in love nothing can be brought to iffue at a distance, and we were pretty far asunder, it was necessary to draw nearer. To attain which, I assumed, as soon as possible, an apparent tranquillity, proper to calm the effects of this violent agitation, without weakening the impression. My transition was: " I am very miserable. I only wished to live for your happiness, and " I have disturbed it :" - then with a composed but constrained air; Forgive me, Madam; little used to the rage of passions, I do not

" know how to suppress their vio-" lence. If I am wrong in giving " way to them. I beg you will re-" member it shall be the last time. "Compole yourfelf; I entrest you compole yourself." During this long discourse, I drew near insensibly "If you with I should be calm?" replied the terrified fair, a do you then " be calm." " I will then I pro-" mile you," faid I, and in a weaker tone, "If the effort is great, it ought " not at least to be long; but I came " to return your letters. I request you "will take them. This afficing fa-" crifice is the only one remainings let me have nothing to weaken my " resolution." Then drawing from my pocket the precious collection " Here is the descirful depolit of your friendship : it made this life "Supportable; take it back wand " give the fignal that is to separate " us for ever." Here the simid logitner. ver

ver gave way to her tender grief -But, M. de Valmont, what is the " matter? What do you mean? Is not your proceeding to day your own voluntary act? Is it not the result of your own reflections? And is it not they have approved this necessary Rep, in compliance with my duty?" I replied, "Well, this Mep decides mine."-" And what " is that ?" - " The only one that to can put an end to my fufferings, by parting me from you." - " But sanswer me what is it." Then prefling her in my arms without any opposition, and observing from the neglect of decency, how firong and powerful her emotions were, I exelaimed, " Adorable woman! you can't conceive the love you inspire. You will never know how much "you was adored, and how much "dearer this passion was than my exiftence. May all your days be for-137 et tunate

u tunate and peaceful! May they be

decorated with that happiness you

" have deprived me of ! At leaft, repay

this fincere wish with one figh, one

" tear; and be affored, the laft facri-

" fice I make will not be the most

e painful to my heart. Adieu !!

While I spoke, I felt her heart throb violently; her countenance altered; her tears almost suffocated her: Then I resolved to feign retreat: but the held me strongly. - " No, hear "what I have to fay," faid the, ear gerly. I answered, " Let me go." "You shall hear mei" I must fly " from you; I must." - " No." she exclaimed; then funk, or rather fwooned in my arms. I was ftill doubtful of so happy an iffue, seemed much terrified, and still led, or rather carried her to the place I had marked out for the field of glory. She did not recover herfelf until the bewit cover and preferve all my forwas submitted, and given up to her happy conqueror.

So far, my lovely friend, you will perceive a methodical nearness, which I am fure will give you pleafure. You will also observe, I did not swerve in the least from the true principles of this war, which we have often remarked bore to near a refemblance to the other. Rank me, then, with the Turenner or the Fredericks. Liferord the enemy to fight who was temporis ing. By skilful manouvers, gained the advantage of the ground and difpolitions , contrived to full the enemy into feeurity, to come up with him more eafily in his retreat; firuck him with terror before we engaged to blefe nothing so chance anly a great advantage, in case of success; or a serminty of resources, in case of a defeat. Finally, the action did not begin till I had focused a respeas by which I might cover and preferve all my for-

mer

mer conquests. What more could be done? But I begin to fear I have enervated myself, as Hannibal did with the delights of Capua.

I expected to great an event would not pals over without the cultoman tears and grief. First I observed somewhat more of confusion and recollestion than is which I attributed to ber state of prudery. Without paning much attention to those dight differences, which I imagined morely local, I followed she beaten road of confolation; fully permaded, as commonly happens, the fenfations would Ay to the affiftance of featiment, that ope act would prevail more than all my speeches, which I did not, however, neglect; but I met with a refiftance really tremendous; less for its excels, than the form under which it appeared. Only think of a woman fitting stiff and motionless, with onalterable features ; feeming divefted

of the faculties of thinking, hearing, or understanding, from whose eyes tears flowed without effort. Such was M. de Tourvel during my conversation. If I endeavoured to recal. her attention by a carefs, or even the most innocent gesture, terror immedrately followed this apparent apathy, accompanied with suffocation, convulfions, fobs, and fhrieks by intervals, but without a word articulated. Those fits returned feveral times, and always. ftronger; the last was even so violent, I was much frightened, and thought I had gained a fruitless victory. I returned to the usual common place phrases - " What do you then re-" gret you have made me the hap-" piest man on earth?" At those words this adorable woman turned to me; her countenance, although still a little wild, had yet recovered its celestial expression. " The happiest?" faid the. - You may guess my reply. " You

You are happy, then?"—I renewed my protestations. "Have I made
"you happy?"—I added praises,
and everything tender. Whilst I was
speaking, all her members were stilled; she fell back softly in her chair,
giving up a hand I ventured to take.
"This idea relieves and consoles me,"
faid she.

You well believe, being thus brought back in the right road, I quitted it no more; it certainly was the best, and, perhaps, the only one. When I made a fecond attempt, I met fome relistance; what had happened before made me more circumspect : but having called on my idea of happiness for affistance, I foon experienced its favourable influence. "You " are right," replied the tender creature, "I can support my existence no " longer than it contributes to your " happinels. I devote myself entire-" ly to you. From this moment ! " give ...01

" give myfelf up to you. You shall " no more experience regret or refu-" fal from me." Thus with artlefs or fublime candor did the deliver me her person and charms, encreasing my happiness by sharing it. The intoxication was complete and reciprocal: for the first sime mine survived the pleasure. I quitted her arms, only to throw myfelf at ther feet, and fwear eternal love. To own the truth, I spoke as I thought. Even after we parted, I could not shake off the idea; and I found it necessary to make extraordinary efforts to divert my attention from her a state of the

I wish you were now here, to comterpoise the charm of the action by
the reward: but I hope I shall not
lose by waiting; for I look on the
happy arrangement I proposed in my
last letter as a settled point between
us. You see I dispatch business as I
promised: my affairs will be so

forward, I shall be able to give you some part of my time. Quickly get rid, then, of the stupid Belleroche, and leave the whining Danceny to be engrossed solely by me. How is your time taken up in the country? You don't even answer my letters. Do you know, I have a great mind to scold you? Only prosperity is apt to make us indulgent. Besides, I can't forget ranging myself again under your banner. I must submit to your little whim. Remember, however, the new lover will not surrender any of the anciene rights of the friend.

Adieu, as formerly! — Adieu, my angel! I fently ou the foftest killes of love.

P. S. Poor Prevan, at the end of his month's imprisonment, was obliged to quit his corps; it is public all over Paris. Upon my word he is cruelly treated, and your fuccess is complete.

Paris, Oct. 29, 17-

forward, I hall be able to give you

foundered of any time. Quielly ver

ed leave the whining Danceny to be

Madame de Rosemond to the Presidente de Tourvel.

you know, I have a great mind to WOULD have answered your letter fooner, my dear child, if the fatigue of my last had not brought on a return of my disorder, which has deprived me ever fince of the use of my arm. I was very anxious to thank you for the good news you gave me of my nephew, and not less to congratulate you fincerely on your own account. Here the interpolition of Providence is visible, that touching the heart of the one has also saved the other. Yes, my lovely dear! the Almighty, who fent you this trial, has affifted you in the moment your strength was exhausted; and notwithflanding

standing your little murmurings, I think you have great reason to return him your unfeigned thanks : not but I believe you would have been very glad to have been the first in this refolution, and that Valmont's should have been the consequence of it; I even think, humanly speaking, the dignity of our fex would have been better preserved, and we are not fond of giving up any of our rights. But what are these considerations to those more important objects! We feldom hear a person saved from shipwreck complain, the means were not in his option.

You will foon experience, my dear child, the afflictions you dreaded for much will grow lighter of themselves, and even were they to last for ever in their sull force, you will be sensible they are easier to bear than the remorse of guilt or self-contempt. It would have been useless to talk to

certain.

you before with this apparent feverity: love is an independent passion, that prudence may make us avoid, but cannot conquer, which when once it has taken root, must die its own natural death, or of absolute despair. This last being your case, gives me the resolution and the right to tell you freely my fentiments. It is cruel to frighten a fick person that is despaired of, to whom palliatives only and confolations should be administered: but it is the part of wildom to remind those on the recovery, of the dangers they elcaped, to affift them with necessary prudence and submiffion to the advice they stand in need of. As you have chole me for your phylician, in that character I address you, and tell you, the little inconveniencies you feel at present, which may require, perhaps, fome remedies, are nothing in comparison of the dreadful disorder whose cure is now certain.

certain. Then, as your friend, as the friend of a virtuous and reasonable woman, give me leave to add, this passion you have subdued, so unhappy in itself, became infinitely more fo in its object. If I am to believe what I am told, my nephew, who I must own I love even to a degree of weakness, unites many laudable qualities to a great many attractions, is very dangerous to the women, blameable in his behaviour towards them, and piques himself as much on exposing as seducing them. I really believe you would have converted him. Sure never was any one fo worthy; however, fo many others -flattered themselves in the same manner, whose hopes were frustrated, that I am overjoyed to find you are not reduced to that resource.

Reflect now, my dear woman, that instead of so many dangers as you would have had to go through, you - You, IV. C will

will have, besides the testimony of a good conscience and your own peace, the satisfaction of being the cause of Valmont's reformation. I own, I think it in a great measure owing to your resolute desence, and that a moment's weakness on your part would have left my nephew in lasting disorders. I love to indulge this way of thinking, and wish you to do the same; you will find it consoling; it will be an additional reason for me to love you the more.

I shall expect you in a few days, my dear child, as you promised. You will once more find serenity and happiness where you lost them. Come and rejoice with your tender mother, that you have so happily kept your word to do nothing unworthy yourself or her.

Oct. 30, 17—.

o whom the strengt enclosed gradients but in annual modernational and thorough

Commenced having analoging sails LETTER CXXVII.

ar as arough, sure recall energy books

The Marchioness de MERTEUIL to the Viscount de VALMONT.

sukčia zvek en handil diseki IT was not for want of time, that I did not answer your letter of the 19th, Viscount, but plainly because it put me out of temper, and did nor contain a fingle fyllable of common fenfe. I thought it then the best way to leave it in oblivion - but fince you feem fond of this production, and the fublime ideas it contains, that you conftrue my filence into confent, it is necessary you should have my opinion explicitly.

I may have heretofore formed the defign of fingly performing the functions of a whole seraglio; but it never C 2

entered

entered my head to become only a part of one; this I thoughtyou knew, now, that you cannot plead ignorance, you may readily conceive how ridiculous your proposition must appear to me. Should I facrifice an inclination, and a new one, for you? And in what manner, pray? Why, waiting for my turn, like a submissive slave, the sublime favours of your highness. When, for example, you was inclined to relax for a moment from that unknown charm that the adorable, the celestial M. de Tourvel only had made you feel; or when you dread to risk with the engaging Gecilia, the superior idea you wished her to preserve for you; then condescending to stoop to me, you will feek pleasures less violent, but of not much consequence, and your inestimable bounty, though scarce, must fill the measure of my felicity. Certainly you stand high in your own opinion; and my modesty nor my glass

glass have yet prevailed on me to think I am sunk so low. This may be owing to my wrong way of thinking; but I beg you will be persuaded. I have more imaginations of the same kind.

One especially, which is, that Danceny, the school-boy, the whiner, totally taken up with me, sacrificing, without making a merit of it, his first love, even before it was enjoyed, and loving me to that excess that is usual with those at his age, may contribute more to my happiness and pleasure than you — I will even take the liberty to add, that if I had the inclination to give him a partner, it should not be you, at least now.

Perhaps you'll ask me why? Probably I should be at a loss for a reason; for the same whim that would give you the preference, might also exclude you. However, politeness requires I should informy ou of my mo-

C'3 tive-

many sacrifices; and instead of being grateful, as you certainly would expect, I should be inclined to think you still owed me more — You must therefore be sensible, our manner of thinking being so opposite, we can by no means unite: I fear it will be some time, nay a great while, before I change my opinion.

When that happens, I promife to give you notice: — Until then, let me advise you to take some other measures, and keep your kisses for those to whom they will be more agreeable.

You say adieu, as formerly! but formerly, if I remember, you set a greater value on me than to appoint me entirely to the third characters; and was content to wait until I answered in the affirmative, before you was certain of my consent: don't be

angry

angry then, if instead of saying adieu, as formerly, I say adieu, as at present.

Your fervant, Viscount.

The castle of ----, OH. 31, 17-

LETTER CXXVIII.

the thucks it contains, mall pare

elle milite int allebare.

of ungerloon your join

The Presidente de Tourvel to Madame de Rosemonde.

though them to the breath about DID not receive, until yesterday, Madam, your dilatory answer - it would instantly have put an end to my existence if I had any left; but M. de Valmont is now in possession of it : you fee I do not conceal any thing from you; if you no longer think me worthy your friendship, I dread the

C4

los

loss of it less than to impose on you: to tell you all in all, I was placed by M. de Valmont, between his death and happiness - I chose the latter -I neither boast nor accuse myself; I

relate the fact plainly as it is.

You will readily perceive, after this, what kind of impression your letter, and the truths it contains, must have made on me. Do not, however, imagine, it could give birth to any repining, or ever make me alter my fentiments or conduct; not that I am exempt from some torturing moments; but when my heart is rent, and I dread not being any longer able to bear my torments, I fay to myfelf, Valmont is happy; and at this idea my miseries vanish; all is converted into joy. Lyns bad I M appalling vir

It is to your nephew, then, I have devoted myself; it is for his sake I am undone; he is now the center of my thoughts, fentiments, and actions. Whilft

Whilst my life can contribute to his happiness, I shall cherish it; I shall think it fortunate; if he should hereafter think otherwise, he shall never hear from me either complaint or reproach. I have already ventured to fix my eyes on this fatal period, and my resolution is taken.

You will now perceive how little I am affected with the dread you feem to entertain, that M. de Valmont, will one day or other defame me — Before that happens, he must lose the affection he has for me; that once lost, of what fignification will vain reproaches be which I shall never hear? He alone will judge me, as I will have lived for him, and him only; and my memory will repose in him; and if he will be obliged to acknowledge I loved him, I shall be justified sufficiently.

Now, Madam, you read my heart— I preferred the misfortune of being deprived of your esteem by my can-

C 5

dour,

dour, to that of making myself unworthy of it by the baseness of a lie. I thought I owed this entire considence to your former goodness; the addition of a word would, perhaps, give room to suspect I should be vain enough yet to depend on it; far from it: I will do myself justice, by giving up all pretensions to it.

I am with great respect, Madam, your most humble and most obedient servant.

Transport of the the political range

he and the same begins to the training day to t

The faller of the state of

had the factor of the first the country

Book INDVINES OF BUILDING

of the few wings transmit of the

421 was the fire temperature Inc.

had the Lateur by oxkonidnes him

Paris, Nov. 1, 17-.

LET.

doide althoughthamen said differing

log excasar en mush og illim su resident

LETTER CXXIX.

energy antiduor of documents

Viscount de Valmont to the Marchioness.
de Merteuil.

usily a kind of form HENCE arifes, my charming friend, this strain of acrimony and ridicule which rons through your laft letter? What crime have I unintentionally committed which puts you fo, much out of temper? You reproach, me with prefuming on your confent before I had obtained it - I imagined, however, what might appear like prefumption in any one elfe, would, between you and me, be only the effect of confidence. I would be glad to know how long has this fentiment been detrimental to friendship or love? Uniting hope with defire, I only com-C 6 plied

plied with that natural impulse, which makes us wish to draw as near as possible to the happiness we are in pursuit of — and you have mistaken that for vanity, which is nothing more than ardour. I know very well, in such cases, custom has introduced a respectful apprehension; but you also know, it is only a kind of form, a mere precedent; and I imagined mystelf authorised to believe those trisling niceties no longer necessary between us.

I even think this free and open method much preferable to infipid flattery, which so often love nauseates, when it is grounded on an old connection. Moreover, perhaps the preference I give this method, proceeds from the happiness it recals to my memory—this gives me more uneafiness that you should take it in another light. However, this is the only thing that I am culpable in—for

for I cannot believe you can feriously imagine, that the woman exists who I would prefer to you; and still less, that I should estimate you so little as you seign to believe. You say, you have consulted your glass on this occasion, and you do not find yourself sunk so low — I believe it; and that only proves your glass to be true—but should you not rather from thence concluded that certainly that was not my opinion.

In vain I feek the cause of this strange idea — however, I suspect it is more or less dependent on the praises I lavished on other women — at least, this I inser, from the affectation of quoting the epithets, adorable, celestial, attacking, which I used, speaking of Madam de Tourvel, and the little Volanges: but you are not to be told, those words, which are oftner the effect of chance than reflection, express more the situation

zgeloully.

one happens to be in at the time, than the value one fets upon the perfon. If at the time I was affected with the one or the other, I neverthelefs rapturously wished for yourthelefs rapturously without preference
over both, as I would not preference
over both, as I would not renew our
first sonnection without breaking off
the two others, I do not think there
is such great reason for reproaches.

I shall not find it more difficult to exculpate myself from the charge of the anknown charm, which, it seems, shocks you not a little, for being unknown, it does not follow that it is stronger.— What can equal the delights you alone can always embellish with novelty and bliss? I only wished to convey to you an idea, it was a kind I never before experienced; but without pretending to give it any rank; and added, what I again repeat, whatever it be, I will overcome it: and shall exert myself more zealously

zealously if I can in this trifling affair, to have one homage more to offer to you.

As to the little Geeilia, it is useless to mention her: you have not forgot it was at your instance I took charge of this child; and only wait your orders to be rid of her. I may have made some remarks on her bloom and innocence; and for a moment thought her engaging, because one is always more or less pleased with their work; but she has not, in any shape, consistency to six the attention.

Now, my lovely friend, I appeal to your justice, your first attachment to me, the long and sincere friendship, the unbounded considence which have linked us together — have I deferved the severe manner in which you have treated me? But how easy can you make me amends when you please!

please! Speak but the word, and you will fee whether all the charms, all the attachments will keep me here. not a day, but even a minute; I will fly to your feet - into your arms and will prove a thousand times, and in a thousand ways, that you are, you ever will be, the only miftress of my heart. And mon burkit shain swan

Adieu, my lovely friend! I wait your answer impatiently.

DOM (16) 4110 NAC TO TRANSPORT OF REALISTS Paris, Nov. 3, 17.

savulfalor, keonifician co inclusos

Angust Leavis age the sol and making function Tables and wavel can medical

ramandamin a State of the substitute of the subs · tarraporan il Align guiotissia Inglica

daidir Sees acomebinance ar sile sind tions a section container -- have I do.

vov foith a tomesto see Sollie T-

bayo tredied made to the automate ner that it also with course where you

LETTER CXXX.

you are ear worthy of bring, beloved

ever to be happy in lone - Where is

Madame de Rosemonde, to the Pre-

Nochrations made to waste took sold

WHY, my lovely dear, will you no longer be my daughter? Why do you feem to announce that our correspondence is to cease? Is it to punish me for not guessing at what was improbable; or do you suspect me of creating you affliction designedly? I know your heart too well, to imagine you would entertain such an opinion of mine. — The distress your letter plunges me in is much less on my own account than yours. Oh! my young friend, with grief I tell you,

y av a n. See Letter exxville ido mobile?

-

you are too worthy of being beloved ever to be happy in love — Where is there a truly delicate and sensible woman, who has not met unhappiness where she expected bliss? Do men know how to rate the women they posses?

Not but many of them are virtuous in their addresses and constant in their affections—but even among those, how sew that know how to put themselves in union with our hearts. I do not imagine, my dear child, their affection is like ours—They experience the same transport often with more violence, but they are strangers to that uneasy officiousness, that delicate solicitude, that produces in us those continual tender cares, whose sole aim is the beloved object—Man enjoys the happiness he seels, woman that she gives.

This difference, so essential, and so seldom observed, influences in a very sensible

sensible manner, the totality of their respective conduct. The pleasure of the one is to gratify desires, but that of the other is to create them. To know to please, is in man the means of success; and in woman it is success itself.

And do not imagine, the exceptions, be they more or less numerous, that may be quoted, can be fuccefsfully opposed to those general truths, which the voice of the public has guarantied, with the only distinction as to men of infidelity from inconflancy; a diffinction of which they avail themselves, and of which they should be ashamed; which never has been adopted by any of our fex but' those of abandoned characters, who are a fcandal to us, and to whom all methods are acceptable which they think may deliver them from the painful fensation of their own meannefs.

I thought,

THOMAS!

I thought, my lovely dear, those reflections might be of use to you, in order to oppose the chimerical ideas of perfect happiness, with which love never fails to amuse our imagination. Deceitful hope! to which we are fill attached, even when we find ourfelves under the necessity of abandoning it - whose loss multiplies and irritates our already too real forrows, inseparable from an ardent passion -This task of alleviating your troubles, or diminishing their number, is the only one I will or can now fulfil - In disorders which are without remedy. no other advice can be given, than asto the regimen to be observed - The only thing I wish you to remember is, that to pity is not to blame a patient. Alas! who are we, that we dare blame one another? Let us leave the right of judging to the fearcher of hearts; and I will even venture to believe, that in his paternal fight, a crowd of virtues

tues may compensate a single weakness.

But I conjure you above all things, my dear friend, to guard against violent resolutions, which are less the effects of fortitude than despondency: do not forget, that although you have made another possessor of your existence (to use your own expression) you had it not in your power to deprive your friends of the share they were before possessed of, and which they will always claim.

Adieu, my dear child! Think sometimes on your tender mother; and be assured you always will be, above every thing, the dearest object of her thoughts.

ediamonation, pricedessit, out he no-

many lugith of implier establish

. Lovern da ven a li chil -- stelegon

shat love alone can alter, and post

Caftle of - - 10 1 says but to at

Gay:

LET-

THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF THE PARTY

LETTER CXXXI.

The Marchioness de Merteuil to the Viscount de Valmont.

VERY well, Viscount; come, I am better pleased with you than I was before; now let us converse in a friendly manner, and I hope to convince you, the scheme you propose would be the highest act of folly in us both.

Have you never observed that pleafure, which is the primum mobile of
the union of the sexes, is not sufficient to form a connection between
them? and that if desire, which brings
them together, precedes it, it is nevertheless followed by disgust, which
repels it — This is a law of nature,
that love alone can alter; and pray,
can

It is then necessary it should be always ready, which would have been very snoublesome shad it not been discovered; it is sufficient if it exists on one side by this means the difficulty is lessened by half, even without apparent prejudice; for the one enjoys the happiness of loving, the other of pleasing—not perhaps in altogether so lively a manner, but that is compensated by deceit, which makes the balance, and then all is right.

But fay, Viscount, which of us two will undertake to deceive the other? You know the story of the two sharpers who discovered each other at play—"We must not prejudice our"felves," said they; "let us club for "the cards, and leave off." Let us follow this prudent advice, nor loose time together, which we may so usefully employ essewhere.

To convince you that I consult your interest as much as my own, and that I am not actuated either by ill humour or capriciousness, I will not resust your reward — I am very sensible one night will be sufficient; and do not in the least doubt, we shall know how to make it so pleasing, the morning will come with regret — but let us not forget, this regret is necessary to happiness; although the illusion may be enchanting, nor flatter ourselves it can be durable.

You see I fulfil my promise in my turn, and even before you perform the conditions stipulated — for I was to have had your celestial prude's first letter. Whether you do not chuse to part with it, or that you have forgot the conditions of a bargain that is not so interesting to you as you would have me think, I have not received any thing; and I am much mistaken, or the tender devotee must have wrote

a great deal; for how can she employ her time alone? she certainly has not sense enough for dissipation? If I was inclined, then, I have room to make you some little reproaches, which I shall pass over in silence, in consideration of the petulance I perhaps shewed in my last letter.

Nothing more remains, now, Vifcount, but to make you a request, and it is as much for you as myself; that is, to defer the time, which perhaps I wish for as much as you, but which I think may be put off until my return to town. On the one hand, it would be very inconvenient here; and on the other, it would be running too great a risk; for a little jealoufy would fix me with the difmal Belleroche, who no longer holds but by a thread. He is already struggling to love me; we are at present fo critically circumstanced, I blend as much malice as prudence in the ca-VOL. IV. reffes

reffes I lavish on him; at the same time you will observe, it would not be a sacrifice worthy of you — A reciprocal insidelity will add power to the charm.

Do you know I regret sometimes we are reduced to those resources -At the time we loved each other, for I believe it was love, I was happy and you, Viscount - but why engage our thoughts on a happiness that can never return? No, fay what you will, it is impossible - First, I should require facrifices that you could not or would not make; that probably I do not deserve. Again, how is it possible to fix you? Oh, no; I will not even think of it; and notwithstanding the pleasure I now have in writing to you, I prefer quitting you abruptly. Adieu, Viscount.

Caftle of --,
Nov. 17, 17-

miness? I must say the lame of your

salvice. I feet its force, but comor

LETTER CXXXIL

richience 'it this mement & Winen are

The Presidente de Tourvel to Madame

Desplie impressed, Madam, with your goodness, to which I would entirely abandon myself, if I was not restrained from accepting by the dread of profating it. Why, convinced of its inestimable value, must I know myself no longer worthy of it? Let me, at least, attempt to testify my gratitude. I shall admire, above all, the lenity of virtue, which views weakness with the eye of compassion; whose powerful charm preserves its forcible but mild authority over hearts, even by the side of the charm of love.

Can I still be worthy a friendship,

which is no longer useful to my happines?

pinels? I must say the same of your advice. I feel its force, but cannot follow it. How is it possible to difcredit perfect happiness, when I experience it this moment? If men are fuch as you describe them, they must be shunned, they are hateful : but where is the refemblance between Valmont and them? If, in common with them, he has that violence of passion you call transport, is it not reftrained by delicacy? My dear friend, you talk of sharing my troubles; take a part, then, in my happiness; to love I am indebted for it, and how immenfely does the object raise its value! You love your nephew, you fay, perhaps, with fondness: ah! if you knew him as I do, you would idolize him, and yet even less than he deserves. He has undoubtedly been led aftray by fome errors; he does not conceal it; but who like him ever workh is no longer dictal to my han-

Schooling

knew what was love? What can I say more? He seels it as he inspires it.

You will think this is one of the chimerical ideas with which love never fails to abufe our imagination : but in my case, why should he be more tender, more earnest, when he has nothing farther to obtain? I will own, I formerly thought I observed an air of reflection and referve, which feldom left him, and which often, contrary to my inclination, recalled to me the false and cruel impressions that were given me of him; but fince he has abandoned himself without constraint to the emotions of his heart, he feems to guess at all my desires. Who knows but we were born for each other? If this happiness was not reserved for me to be necessary to his! - Ah! if it be an illusion, let me die before it ends. - No, I must live to cherish, to adore him. Why should he cease loving me? What woman on earth D 2 could

could he make happier than me? And I experience it by myself, this happiness that he has given rise to, is the only and the strongest tie. It is this delicious sentiment that exalts and purrifies love, and becomes truly worthy. a tender and generous mind, fuch as Valmont's. I de diento or redrait more

Adieu, my dear, my respectable, my indulgent, friend! Viainly floudd. I think of continuing my letter. This is the hour he promifed to come, and every idea flies before him. Your pardon. But you wish me happiness: it is now to great I can fearce supto the emotions of his heart, be-ti trop

ob an To to Deur or Paris, Nov. 7, 17-

Bloom

this happinels was not referred for meto be netelling to his! - whith it is the an illustrance let me die beitere be entire - No. Treath liver o creatly to

adore, him. Who thould be used Para no namow that the LET-

- research that the section of the section of the

Theres expended Certainly as

LETTER CXXXIII.

The Viscount de VALMONT to the Marchioness de MERTEUIL.

of believe of a cert ranel. HAT, then, my charming friend, are those facrifices you think I would not make to your pleasure? Let me only know them; and if I hesitate to offer them to you, I give you leave to refuse the hommage. What opinion have you of late conceived of me, when even favourably inclined, you doubt my fentiments or inclinations? Sacrifices that I would not or could not make! So you think I am in love, fublued! The value I fet on the success, you suspect is attached to the person. Ah! thank heaven, I am not yet reduced to that, and Loffer to prove it. I will prove

it, if even it should be at Madame de Tourvel's expence. Certainly after that you cannot have a doubt remaining.

I may, I believe, without committing myself, give up some time to a woman, who, at least, has the merit of being of a cast rarely met. The dead feafon, perhaps, when this adventure took its rife, was another reafon to give myfelf totally up to it; even now that the grand current of company scarcely begins to flow, it is not furprifing my time is almost enfirely taken up with her. I beg you will also recollect, it is scarce eight days I enjoy the fruits of three months labour. I have often indulged longer with what has not been fo valuable, and had not coft me fo much: and yet you never from thence drew any conclusions against me.

Shall I tell you the real cause of my affiduity? It is this. She is naturally

of a timed disposition; at first she doubted incessantly of ther happiness, which was sufficient to disturb it; so that I but just begin to observe how far my power extends in this kind. This I was curious to know, and the occasions are not so readily offered as one may think.

In the first place, pleasure is nothing but mere pleasure with a great number of women, and never any thing else; with them, whatever titles they think proper to adorn us with, we are never but factors, simple commissioners, whose activity is all their merit, and among whom he who performs most is always esteemed the best.

In another class, the most numerous now-a-days, the celebrity of the lower, the pleasure of carrying him from a rival, the dread of a reprisal again, totally engage the women. Thus we are concerned more or less in this kind.

of happiness which they enjoy; but it depends more on circumstances than on the person o it comes to them by us, and not from us.

It was then necessary to find a woman of delicacy and fensation to make my observations on, whose sole concern should be love, and in that pase fion be absorbed by the lover; whose emotions, diffaining the common track, should fly from the heart to the fenses; who I have viewed, (I don't mean the first day) rife from the bed of delight all in tears, and the instant after recover voluptuousness by a word that touched her foul. She must also have united that natural candour. which habitude had made infurmountable, and would not fuffer her to diffemble the least fentiment of her heart. You must agree with me, such women are scarce; and I am consident, if I had not met this one. I never should have found another, and have been su

There-

Therefore it is not at all surprising the should have fascinated me longer than another; and if the time I spend makes her happy, perfectly happy, why should I refuse it, especially when it is so agreeable to me? But because the mind is engaged, must the heart be enslaved? Certainly not. And the value I set on this adventure will not prevent my engaging in others, or even sacrificing this to some more agreeable one.

I am even so much at liberty, that I have not neglected the little Vollanges, to whom I am so little attached. Her mother brings her to town in three days, and I have secured my communication since yesterday; a little money to the porter, a few soft speeches to the waiting maid, did the business. Would you believe it? Danceny never thought of this simple method. Where, then, is the boasted ingenuity of love? Quite the

D 6

con-

212

contrary; it stupisses its votaries. Shall I not, then, know how to preserve myself from it? Be not uneasy, in a few days I shall divide the impression, perhaps rather too strong, it made on me, and weaken it; if one will not do, I will increase them.

Nevertheless, I shall be ready to give up the young penfioner to her discreet lover, when you think proper. I can't see you have any longer reason to oppose it. I freely consent to render poor Danceny this fignal fervice: upon my word, it is but trifling, for all those he has done for me. He is now in the greatest anxiety to know whether he will be admitted at Madame de Volanges's. I keep him as eafy as possible, by promising some how or other to gratify him one of those days; in the mean time, I take upon me to carry on the correspondence, which he intends to refume on his Cecilia's arrival. I have already

fix of his letters, and shall have one or two more before the happy day. This lad must have very little to do.

However, let us leave this childin couple, and come to our own bufiness, that I may be entirely engaged with the pleasing hope your letter has given me. Do you doubt of fixing me your's? If you do, I shall not forgive you. Have I ever been inconstant? Our bands have been loofened, but never broken; our pretended rupture was an error only of the imagination; our fentiments, our interests, are still the same. Like the traveller who returned undeceived, I found out, as he did, I quitted happiness to run after hope.* The more strange lands I saw, the more I loved my country. No longer oppose the idea, or fentiment rather, that brings you back to me. After hav-

104

^{*} Du Belloi's tragedy of the Siege of Calmin.

ing tried all manner of pleasures in our different excursions, let us fit down and enjoy the happiness of knowing, that none is equal to what we have experienced, and that we shall again find more delicious.

Adieu, my lovely friend! I consent to wait your return; however, hasten it as much as possible, and do not forget how much I wish for it.

Paris, Nov. 8, 17-

LETTER CXXXIV.

tioned repaired was and early to be found

Marchioness de MERTEUIL to the Vis-

UPON my word, Viscount, you are exactly like the children, before whom one cannot speak a word, nor shew a thing but they must have it immediately. Because I just mention

an idea that came into my head. which I even told you I was not fixed on, you abufe my intention, and want to tie me down, at the time Liendean your to forget it, and force me in a manner to share your thoughtless des fires. Are you not very ungenerous to make me beat the whole burthen of prudential care ? I must again repeat, and it frequently occurs to me, the method you propose is impossible. When you would even throw in all the generality you mention, do you imagine I am divested of my delicacies, and I would accept facrifices prejudicial to your happiness?

My dear Viscount, you certainly deceive yourself in the sentiment that attaches you to M. de Tourvel. It is love, or such a passion never had existence. You deny it in a hundred shapes; but you prove it in a thousand. What means, for example, the subtersuge you use against yourself,

rol

for I believe you fincere with me, that makes you relate so circumstantially the desire you can neither conceal nor combat, of keeping this woman? Would not one imagine, you never had made any other happy, perfectly happy? Ah! if you doubt it, your memory is very bad: but that is not the case. To speak plainly, your heart imposes on your understanding, and pays it off with bad arguments: but I, who am so strongly interested not to be deceived, am not so easily blinded.

Thus, as I remarked, your politeness made you carefully suppress every word you thought would displease
me, I could not help observing, perhaps, without taking notice of it;
nevertheless you preserved the same
ideas. It is no longer the adorable,
the celestial Madame de Tourvel, but
an astonishing woman, a delicate sentimental woman, even to the exclusion.

of all others; a wonderful woman, fuch as a second could not be found. The fame way with your unknown charm? which is not the ftrongest. Well; be it fo: but fince you never found it out till then, it is much to be apprehended you will never meet it again; the lofs would be irreparable. Those, Viscount, are fure symptoms of love, or we must renounce the hope of ever finding it. You may be affored I am not out of temper now; and have made a promise, I will not be for any more : I forefee it might become a dangerous frare. Take my word for it, we had better remain as we are, in friendship. Be thankful for my resolution in defending myself; for sometimes one must have it, not to take a Rep that may be attended with bad confequences. I must interest on cover

It is only to persuade you to be of my opinion, I answer the demand you make, on the sacrifices I would exact.

exact, and you could not make. I designedly use the word exact, because immediately you will think me too exacting—so much the better: far from being angry with your refusal, I shall thank you for it. Observe, I will not diffemble with you; perhaps I have occasion for it.

First I would exact take notice of the cruelty! that this fame rare, this aftenishing Madame de Tourvel, should be no more to you than any other woman; that is, a mere woman: for you must not deceive yourself; this charm that you believe is found in others, exists in us, and it is love only embellishes the beloved object fo much. What I now require, although fo impossible for you to grant, you would not helicate to promise, nay, even to fwear; but I own I would not believe you the more. I could not be convinced, but by the whole tenor of your conduct.

That

That is not all a I should be whimfical, perhaps; the facrifice you so politely offer me of the little Cecilia, does not give me the least uneafiness: on the contrary, I should require you, to continue this toilfome duty until, farther orders. Whether I should like thus to abuse my power or when ther more indulgent, or more reasonable it would fatisfy me to dispose of your fentiments without thwarting your ples wees II would however he obsyed, and my commands would be very levere wet you fullish at you

Certainly I should think myself obliged to thank you, and, who knows? perhaps to reward you. As: for instance, I might shorten an abfence, which would be insupportable to me. I should at length fee you again, Viscount; and see you again -How? - Remember this is only a conversation, a plain narrative of an terties at the field to-singlet a the segret

only one to forget it.

I must tell you my lawfurt begins to make me a little uneafy. "I was determined to know exactly what my pretentions were! My lawyers have quoted me fome laws, and a great many authorities, at they call them; but I can't perceive fo much reason' and juffice in them! I am almost afraid I did wrong to refuse the compromife; however, I begin to be encouraged, when I confider my actorney is skilful, my lawyer eloquent, and the plaintiff handlome. If thefe reasons were to be no longer valid, the course of business must be altered; then what would become of the respect for old customs? This lawfuir is actually the only thing keeps me here. That of Belleroche is finished; the indicts ment qualhed, each party to bear their own costs: he even is regretting not to be at the ball to-night; the regret

of a man out of employment. I shall fet him free at my return to town. In making this grievous serifice, I am consoled by the generolity he finds in it boyon have all I am error the

Adieu, Viscount! write to me often. The particulars of your amusements will make me amends partly for the dulness I suffer.

Caftle of ______, and morn Nov. 11, 17- ! dains 102 101

LETTER CXXXV.

not oven the conjulation of a doubt:

The Presidente de Tourvel to Madame de Rosemonde.

I AM now endeavouring to write to you, and know not whether I shall be able. Gracious God! — excessive happiness prevented my continuing my last letter; now despair overwhelms

me, and leaves me only strength sufficient to tell my forrows, and deprives me of the power of expressing them. — Valmont — Valmont no longer loves me! He never loved me! Love does not depart thus. He deceived me, he betrayed me, he insults me! I suffer every kind of misfortune and humiliation; and all proceed from him.

Do not think it a mere suspicion. I was far from having any. I have not even the consolation of a doubt: I saw it. What can he say in his justification? — But what matters it to him? He will not attempt it even. — Unhappy wretch! What avail thy reproaches and thy tears? He is not concerned about thee.

It is, then, too true, he has made me a facrifice; he has even exposed me — and to whom? — To a vile creature. — But what do I fay? Ah! I have no right to despite her. She

has

away;

has not broke through any ties; the is not so culpable as I am. Oh! what grief can equal that which is followed by remorfe! I feel my torments increase. Adieu, my dear friend! though I am unworthy your compassion, still you will have some left for me, if you can form an idea of my sufferings.

I have just read over my letter, and perceive it gives you no information. I will endeavour to muster up resolution to relate this cruel event. It was yesterday, I was to sup abroad for the first time since my return. Valmont came to me at five; he never appeared fo endearing: he did not feen pleased with my intention of going abroad; I immediately refolved to stay at home. In two hours after, his air and tone changed visibly on a fudden. I don't know any thing escaped me to displease him; however, he pretended to recollect business that obliged him to leave me, and went

away; not without expressing a tender concern, which I then thought very sincere:

Being left alone, I refolved to fulfil my first engagement, as I was at liberty. I finished my toiler, and got in my carriage. Unfortunately my coachman drove by the opera, and my carriage was stopped in the crowd coming up. I perceived at a little distance before mine, and the range next to me, Valmont's carriage: my heart instantly palpitated, but not with fear; and my only with was, that my carriage should get forward: instead of which, his was obliged to back close to miner I immediately looked out; but what was my aftonishment to see beside him a wellknown courtezan! I drew back, as you may believe; I had feen enough to wound my heart; but what you will fearcely credit is, this fame girl, being probably in his confidence, did

not turn her eyes from me, and with repeated peals of laughter flared me out of countenance a barrison I sval

Notwithstanding my abject state, I fuffered myfelf to be carried to the house where I was to sup. I found it impossible to stay there long; every inflant I was ready to faint, and could

At my return I wrote to M. de Valmont, and fent my letter immediately; he was not at home. Being determined at all events to be relieved from this miserable state, or have it confirmed for ever, I fent the fervant back, with orders to wait : before twelve he came home, telling me the coachman was returned, and had informed him, his malter would not be home for the night. This morning I thought it would be better to request he would give up my letters, and beg of him never to fee me more. I have given orders accordingly, but certainly Vol. IV. they

they were useless. It is now near twelve; he has not yet appeared, nor have I received a line from him.

Now, my dear friend, I have nothing farther to add. You are informed of every thing, and you know my heart. My only hope is, I shall not long trouble your tender friendship.

Paris, Nov. 15, 17 120 (to 1A

atols , he was not at bome. Deing

The Presidente de Tourvel to the Viscount de Valmont.

CERTAINLY, Sir, after what paffed yesterday, you do not expect I
should see you again, and you as certainly do not desire it. The intention
of this note, then, is not so much to
require you never to come near me

more, as to call on you for my letters, which ought not to have existed. If they could at any time have been interesting, as proofs of the infatuation you had occasioned, they must be, now that is diffipated, indifferent to you, as they were only proofs of a fentiment you have destroyed.

I own, I was very wrong in placing a confidence in you, of which so many before me have been victims; Laccufe no one but myfelf: but I never thought I deferved to be exposed by you to contempt and infult! I linat gined, that making a facrifice of every thing, and giving up for you my pretentions to the efteem of others, as alfo my own, I might have expected not to be treated by you with more feverity than by the public, whose opinion always makes an immenfe difference between the weak and the depraved. Those are the only wrongs I shall mention, I shall be filent on Mindy

E 2

those

understand mine. Farewel, Sirl de

n Paris, Nov. 13, 1924 blood year

LETTER CXXXVII.

vou had occasioned they must be;

Viscount de Valmont to the Presidente
de Tourvel.

THIS inflant only have I received your letter, Madam. I could not read it without shuddering, and have scarcely strength to answer it. What a horrible opinion have you, then, conceived of me! Doubtless, I have my faults, and such as I shall never forgive myself, if even you should hide them with your indulgence. But how distant from my thoughts are those you reproach me! Who, me insult you! Me make you contemptible, at a time when I reverence as much as cherish

cherish you! when you raised my vanity by thinking me worthy of you! Appearances have deceived you. I will not deny they make against me: but had you not fufficient within your own heart to contend against them? Did it not revolt at the idea of having a caule of complaint against me? Yet you believed it ! Thus you not only thought me capable of this atrocious phrenzy, but even dreaded you had exposed yourself to it by your Indulgence. And if you think yourfelf fo much degraded by your love, I must be very defpicable in your fight. Oppreffed by the painful fense of this idea, I lose the time I should employ in deftroying it, endeavouring to repel in I will confest all: another confideration fall prevents me. Mufe I go back to facts b would wish to forget for ever, and recal your attention and my own to errors I fhall ever repent; the cause of which I cannot

E 3

yet.

力争い

yet conceive, which fill me with mortification and delpair. If I excite your anger by accusing myself, the means of revenge will not be out of your reach; it will be sufficient to abandon me to my own remorses

Yet the first saufe of this unhappy event is, the all-powerful charm I feel in being with you! I'it was it made me too long forget an important bufiness that could not be put offed I flaged with you fo long, I did not find the person at home I wanted to see; I expected to have met her at the opera, where I was also disappointed. Emily, who I met there, and knew at a time when I was a ftranger to you and love, Emily had not her carriage, and requested I would fet her down at a little distance from thence; I confented, as a matter of no confequence. It was then I met you. I was inflantly feized with the apprehension you would think me guilty:

The

The dread of afflicting or displea fing you is so powerful, it is impossifor me to conceal it, and was foon perceived. I will even own, it induced me to prevail on this girl not, to thew herfelf; this precaution, the refult of delicacy, was unfayourable. to love sobut the like the rell of hertribe, accustomed to the abuse of herusurped power, would not let hip for splendid am opportunity. In The more the observed my embarrassment increase, the more the affected to thew, herfelf; and her cridiculous mirther which I blush to think you could for a moment imagine yourfelf to be the object, had no other foundation than the cruel anxiety I felt, which proceeded from my love and respection

So far, doubtless, I am more unfortunate than guilty. Those crimes being thus done away, I am clear of reproach. In vain, however, are you filent on those of love, which I must

E 4

break

break through, as it concerns me for

Not but, in my confusion for this unaccountable misconduct, which I cannot without great grief recal to my remembrance; yet I am so sensible of my error, I would patiently bear the punishment, wait my pardon from time, from my excessive love, and my repentance; only what I yet have to say concerns your delicacy.

Do not think I feek a pretence to excuse or palliate my fault; I confess my guilt; but I do not acknowledge, nor ever will, this humiliating error can be a crime of love. For where is, the analogy between a surprise of the sensations, a moment of inadvertency, which is soon replaced by shame and regret, and an immaculate sentiment, which delicate souls are only capable of, supported by esteem, and of which happiness is the sruit? Ah! do not thus profane love; or, rather, do not

pro-

profate yourfelf, by uniting in the fame point of view what never can be blended. Leave to despicable and degraded women the dread of a rival-flip, and experience the torments of a cruel and humiliating jealous; but then your eyes from objects that would fully them: and pure as the Divinity, punish the affence without feeling it.

What punishment can you inflict on me will be more for owful than what I already feel — that can be comparable to the grief of having incurred your displeasure—to the despair of giving you affliction—to the unsufferable idea of being unworthy of you? Your mind is taken up with punishing, whill I languish for consolation; not that I deserve it, but only that I am in want of it, and that it is you alone can console me.

If on a sudden, forgetful of our mutual love as of my happiness, you will abandon me to perpetual forrow, I

E 5

shall

shall not dispute your right - frike: but should you incline to indulgence, and again recal those tender fentiments that united our hearts; that voluptuousness of foul, ever renewing, ever increasing; those delightful days we passed together; all the felicities that love only can give; you will, perhaps, prefer the power of renewing to that of destroying them. What shall I fay? I have lost all, and loft it by my own folly : but still all may be retrieved by your goodness. You are now to decide. I shall add but one word more. Yesterday you fwore my happiness was certain whilst it depended on you. Ah! will you this day, then, Madam, give me up to everlasting despair?

Paris, Nov. 15, 17-

· a'n Le luo a

en a foldere, forgerfalt.

LET-

don, even rechired a latte fruittee.

Party Salesty Hennethy than pley plays

LETTER CXXXVIII. ing dolds evolved to another think

Republicated will have its of its of the Confi Viscount de VALMONT to the Marchioni des de Merteulle imposit 1

felt, and convince you, that it was a

I Infift on it, my charming friend, I am not in love; and it is not my fault, if circumstances oblige me to play the character of a lover. - Only consent to return, and you will be able to judge my fincerity-I made my proofs yesterday, and cannot be injured by what happens to-day.

I was with the tender prude, having nothing elfe to do; for the little Volanges, notwithstanding her situation, was to spend the night at Madame de V-'s early ball: the want of bufiness first gave me an inclination to prolong the evening; and I had, with this inten-E 6 tion,

tion, even required a little facrifice:
it was scarcely granted, than the pleafure I promised myself was disturbed
with the idea of this love which you
so obstinately will have it, or at least
reproach me with being infected; so
I determined at once to be certain myself, and convince you, that it was a
calumny of your own.

In consequence I took a violent resolution; on a very slight pretence, I
took leave, and lest my fair one quite
surprised, and doubtless more afflicted,
while I quietly went to meet Emily at
the opera: she can fatisfy you, that until morning, when we parted, no regret disturbed our amusements.

Yet there was a pretty large field for uneafiness, if my total indifference had not preserved me: for you must know, I was scarce four houses from the opera, with Emily in my carriage, when that of the austere devotee ranged close beside mine, and a stop which happened,

left

left us near half a quarter of an hour close by each other a we could see one another as plain as at noon day, and there was no means to escape.

I That is not all all dook it in my lied to tell Emily confidentially, that was the letter woman! You may recollect, perhaps, that piece of folly, and that Emily was the desker. She did not forger is, and as the laughs immoderately, the was not easy until the had attentively viewed this piece of virtue, as the dalled her s and with feandalous burfts, such as would even disconcert effontery.

Still this is not all, the jeakous wo man fent to my house that same night. I was not at home, but the obstinately fent a second time, with orders to wait my return. I sem my carriage home, as soon as I resolved to spend the night with Emily, without any other orders to my coachman, than to

Letters xlvi and xlvii.

return

return this morning. When he got home he found the messenger, whom he informed I was not to return that night. You may guess the effect of this news, and that at my return, I found my discharge announced with all the dignity the circumstance required to some the circumstance required to some the circumstance required to some the circumstance required.

Thus, this adventure, which according to your opinion, was never to be determined, could, as you see, have been ended this morning? if it should not, I would not have you think I prize a continuance of it; but I do not think it consistent with my character to be quitted: moreover, I intend to reserve the honour of this scrisice for you.

I have answered her severe note with a long sentimental epistle; I have given long reasons, and rely on love to make them acceptable. I have already succeeded—I have received a second note, still very rigorous, and which confirms an everlasting apture, as it ought

ought to be — but the ton is not the same; I must not be seen again; this resolution is announced four times in the most irrevocable manner. From thence I concluded, there was not a moment to be soft in presenting myself: I have already sent my huntsman to secure the porter, and shall follow instantly, to have my pardon sealed: for in crimes of this nature, there is only one form for a general absolution, and that must be executed in each others presence.

Paris, Nov. 15, 17 19 on mis Calm and design

grief and argunds; now that I exthe ecflary of my heart! Vakanor is
innocent; with to much love there
can be no guilf—those heavy of nlive crimes with which I louded had
live the call of the con-

toint,

refolution is announced four renes in the XXXXX A T T T F From

The Presidente de Tounvel to Ma-

to fecure the porter, and that follow DIOW I reproach myfelf, my dear friend, for having wrote too foon; and, faid the much of my transitory trous bles! I lam the cause you at prefent are afflicted; the chagrin I have given; you flill continues, and I am happy ; yes, every thing is forgor, and bforgive; or rather all is cleared up. Calm and delight meceed this flate of grief and anguish; how shall I express the ecstafy of my heart! Valmont is innocent; with fo much love there can be no guilt - those heavy offenfive crimes with which I loaded him fo bitterly, he did not deserve; and although I was right in one fingle point,

point, yeol was comake reparations for my unjust fulpicionsd good bad I

I will not relate minutely the cirdumstances of facts of reasonings in
his justification—Perhaps even the
mind would but badly appreciate them
it is the heart only can feel them.
However, were you even to suspect
me of weakness, I would call on your
judgment in support of my own; you
fay among men insidelity is not inconstancy."

Not but I am sensible, this opinion, which custom authorises, hurts delicacy: but why should mine complain, when Valmont's suffers more. This same injum which I forget, I do not think he forgives himself; and yet he has immensely repaired this trivial error, by the excess, of his love, and my happiness!

My felicity is greater, or I know the value of it better, fince my dread

of losing him; I can aver to you, if I had strength sufficient to undergo again such cruel chagrins as I have just experienced, I should not think I had purchased my increase of happiness at too high a rate. Oh, my dear monther! scold your unthinking daughter for afflicting you by her precipitation; stold her for having rashly judged him she should ever adore; and knowing her imprudence, see her happy: augment her bliss by partaking it.

Poris Nov. 15, 17, and 1 variety

pain, when Valmour's feffers unlied this fame injury which I forest. I forest. I do not think he sorgive best fell and yet his has immediably repaired this terminal error, by the excession of his love, and my happiness.

My felicity is griefer, or I know

the best of the contract of th

top enforchise cerent of last reight,

LETTER CXL.

though new many winds or story and all order

The Viscount de VALMONT to the Marchioness de MERTEUIT.

mation herbif, at leaft for fome time,

HOW comes it, my charming friend, I receive no answers from you? I think, however, my last letter deserved one; these three days have I been expecting it, and must still wait! I really am yeard, and shall not relate a syllable of my grand affairs.

Such as the reconciliation had its full effect; that instead of reproaches and diffidence, it produced fresh proofs of affection; that I now actually receive the excuse and satisfaction due to my suspected candour; not a word shall you know—had it not been for

the

the unforeseen event of last night, I should not have wrote to you at all, but as it relates to your pupil, who probably cannot give you any information herself, at least for some time, I have taken upon me to acquaint you with it.

For reasons you may or may not guess, Madame de Tourvel, has not engaged my attention for fome days: as those reasons could not exist with the little Volanges, I became more affiduous there. Thanks to the obliging porter, I had no obstacles to furmountd and your pupil and Fled a constorables regulars life - Cufforn brings on negligence; at first we had not taken proper precautions for our fecurity; we trembled behind the locks: yesterday an incredible abfence of mind occasioned the accident I am going to relate; as to myfelf. fear was my only punishment, but the little girl did not come off to well

We

We were not alleep, but repaining in the abandonment confequent to woluptuous of such as sudden, we beard the room door open. I instantly seized my sword to defend myself and our papil. I advanced, and saw no one; but the door was open: as we had a light. Lexamined all about the room, and sid not find a mortal; then I recollected we had forgot our usual precautions, and certainly the door being only pushed or not properly short, opened of itself.

Returning to my terrified companion to quiet her, I did not find her in the bed; the fell out, or hid herfelf by the bedfide; at length I found her there, thretched fenfeless on the ground, in throng convultions—You may judge my embarrationent—However, I brought her to herfelf, and got her into bed again, but she had hurt herfelf in the fall, and was not long before she felt its effect.

Pains

Pains in the loins, violent cholics, and other symptoms less equivocal, foon informed me her condition - To make her fenfible of it, it was necesfary to acquaint her with the one the was in before, of which she had not the least suspicion: never any one before her, perhaps, went to work fo innocently to get rid of it he does not lose her time in reflection.

But the lost a great deal in afflicting herfelf, and I found it necessary to come to fome resolution : otherefore we agreed I should immediately go to the physician and surgeon of the family, to inform them they would be fent for ; I was to make them a confidence of the whole business, under a promise of secrecy - That she should ring for her waiting maid, and should or should not make her a confidence of her figuation, of as the thought proper, but at all events, fend for affiltance, and should forbid her Pains

her from disturbing Madame de Volanges. An attentive delicacy natural to a girl who feared to give her mother uneasiness.

I made my two vifits and confeffions as expeditioufly as I could, and then went home, from whence I have not fince stirred. The surgeon, who I knew before, came to me at noon, to give me an account of the state of his patient - I was not mistaken -He hopes, however, it will not be attended, with any bad confequences. Provided no accident happens, it will not be discovered in the house; the waiting woman is in the fecret; the physician has given the diforder a name, and this affair will be fettled as a thoufand others have been, unless hereafter it might be useful to us to have an firm P. All worldbandine

Have you and I mutual interests or no? Your filence makes me dubious of it; I would not even think at all of it, if my inclinations did not lead me on to every method of preferving the abopt of its addictly my channing friend! yet in angerionitions

I made my two visits and conferfront as experiments as I could and then went became, from whence, I have not fince stirred. The furgering who I knew before, came to me at noon,

to sight to the Rock I wis of

The Marchioness de Menteuil to the

He hopes, however, it will not be .

GOOD God, Viscount! How troublesome you are with your obstinacy! What matters my filence to you? Do you believe it is for want of reasons I am silent? Ah! would to God! But no, it is only because it would be painful to tell them to you.

Speak truth, do you deceive yourfelf, or do you mean to deceive me?
The difference between your discourse
and actions, deaves in doubt which I
am to give credit to. What shall I say
to you then, when I even do not know
what to think?

You feem to make a great merit of your last scene with the Presidente; but what does that prove in Support of your fystem, or against mine? I never certainly told you, your love for this woman was fo violent as not be capable of deceiving her, or prevent you from enjoying levery topportunity that appeared agreeable and eafy to you. I never even doubted but it would be equally the fame to you, to fatisfy, with any other, the first that offered, she defires the would raife on I am not at all durprifed, that from a libertinism of mind, which it would be wrong to contend with you, novilon appears & me the Whote Vull.

you have once done defignedly, what you have a thousand times done occafionally — Don't we well know this is the way of the world, and the practice of you all? and whoever acts otherwife is looked on as a simpleton —
I think I don't charge you with this defect.

what I have faid, what I have thought, what I fell think, is, you are nevertheless in love with your Prefidente : not if you will with a pure and tender paffion, but of that kind of which you are capable; for examplegof that kind which makes you discover in a woman, charms and qualities the has not " which ranks her in a class by herfelf, and still links you to her even while you infule her -Such, in a word; las a Sultan has for a favourite Sultana, that does not prewent him from often giving the preferencel to a plain Odalifk." My comparison appears to me the more fust,

as,

as, like him, you never are the lover or friend of a woman, but always her tyrant or her flave. And I am very certain, you very much humbled and debased yourself very much, to get into favour again with this fine object! Happy in your success, as soon as you think the moment arrived to obtain your pardon, you leave me for this grand event.

Even in your last letter, the reason you give for not entertaining me folely with this woman is, because you will not tell me any thing of your grand affairs; they are of fo much importance, that your filence on that fubject lis to be my punishment : and after giving me such strong proofs of a decided preference for another, you cooly ask me whether we bave a mutual interest! Have a care, Viscount; if I once answer you, my answer shall be irrevocable: and to be in suspence, is perhaps faying too much; I will F 2 thereunit

therefore now fay and more off that

I have nothing more to fay, but to tell you a trifling story; perhaps you will not have leifure to read it, or to give so much attention to it as to understand it properly? At worst, it will be only a tale thrown away.

A man of my acquaintance, like you, was entangled with a woman, who did him very little credit; he had fense enough, at times, to perceive, this adventure would hurt him one time or other - Although he was ashamed of it, yet he had not the refolition to break off - His embarraffinent was greater, as he had fretruently boafted to his friends, he was intirely at liberty; and was not infensible, the more he apologised, the more the ridicule increased -Thus, he spent his time incessantly in foolery, and constantly faying, it is not my fault. This man had a friend, who was one time

time very near giving him up in his frenzy to indelible ridicule! but yet, being more generous than malicious, or perhaps from some other motive, the resolved, as a last effort, to try a method to be able, at least, with her friend, to say, it is not my fault. She therefore sent him, without farther ceremony, the following senter, as a remedy for his differder.

"One tires of every thing, my angel! It is a law of nature; it is

" not my fault joivbs ven off "

"If then, I am tired of a coonec-."
tion that has intirely taken my up

" four long months, it is not my

" fault or Farewell my angel I confuet "

"inuch love as you had virtue, and

" that's faying a great deal, it is not

" at all furprifing that one should end

" with the others it is not my fault.

Alegare, the elected this last effort,

iff It follows, then, that for fome

" time past, I have deceived you; but

" your unmerciful affection in fome

" measure forced me to it! It is not

"my fault. The first are disviolet och

" Now a woman I love to diffrac-

" tion, infifts I must facrifice you!

of it is not my fault, mid and motored

" I am fentible here is a fine field

" for reproaches; but if nature has

" only granted men constancy, whilst

" it gives obstinacy to women, it is

"not my fault. Wat the till thought

"Take my advice, chuse another

" lover, as I have another mistress-

"The advice is good; if you think

"Otherwise, it is not my fault. "

"Farewel, my angel! I took you

with pleasure, I part you without

regret; perhaps I shall return to

"you; it is the way of the world;"

de is not my fault? and in mil ha ha!"

This is not the time to tell you,
Viscount, the effect of this last effort,
and

and its consequences; but I promise to give it you in my next letter; you will then receive also my ultimatum on renewing the treaty you propose. Until when, adieu.

Now I think on it, receive my thanks for your particular account of the little Volanges; that article will keep till the day after her wedding, for the scandalous gazette. I condele with you, however, on the loss of your progeny. Good night, Viscount.

contains — But this Lequiples with and contains and contains.

In the to take effect; therefore it do not for cateful fred denie. I did not for a monderat, for the tender epifite was dispatched yeared as evening — I choice to act to; for the tender evening — I choice to act to; for the T. Bulkover, I thought a whole the got to collect the collect to make to collect the collect to make to collect the collect.

and its confequences; but I promide

LETTYER RUCKLIL

Until when, adieu.

tye it you in my next lander, your

Viscount de VALMONT to the Marchioness

the finde Volunges what article will

keep all the day stier ber-weilding Don't know, my charming friend, whether I have read or understood badly your letter, the little tale you relate, and the epistolary model it contains - But this I must say, the last is an original, and feems very proper to take effect; therefore I only copied it, and fent it without farther ceremony to the celestial Presidente. I did not lose a moment, for the tender epistle was dispatched yesterday evening-I chose to act so; for first, I had promised to write to her; and, moreover, I thought a whole night not too much for her to collect herfelf.

herself, and ruminate on this grand event, were you even to reproach me a second time with the expression.

I expected to have sent you back this morning my well-beloved's answer; it is now near twelve, and it is not yet come — I shall wait until five; and if I receive no news by that time, I shall in person seek it, for every thing must be done according to form, and the difficulty is only in this first step.

Now you may believe I am impatient to know the end of your story of that man of your acquaintance, who was so violently suspected of not knowing how to sacrifice a woman upon occasion — Did he not amend, and did not his generous friend forgive him?

I am no less anxious to receive your ultimatum as you call it so politically; but I am curious, above all, to know if you can perceive any impres-

F

fion of love in this last proceeding?

Ab! doubtless there is, and a good deal! But for whom? Still I make no pretentions; I expect every thing from your goodness.

Adieu, charmer! I shall not close my letter until two, in hope of adding the wished-for answer.

Two o'clock in the afternoon.

Nothing yet—the time flips away;
I can't spare a moment — but surely
now you will not result the tenderest
kiffes of love.

Paris, Nov. 27, 17500 of somotive

knowing how to factored at words a words appeal occasion - Did he was aftend

and did not his generally friend for-

Control of the analysis of the second of the

or the eviden process to the E

They in you expensely as not it would

questly leave me to my fate -- sorges

T.ETTER CXXVIII.

The Presidente de Tourvel to Madame de Rosemonde.

THE veil is rent, Madam, on which was painted my illusory happines.—The fatal truth is cleared, that leaves me no prospect but an affured and speedy death, and my road is traced between shame and remorfe. I will follow it — I will cherish my torments if they will shorten my existence—I send you the letter I received yesterday; it needs no resections; it contains them all — This is not a time for lamentation — nothing remains but sufferings — I want not pity, I want strength.

Receive, Madame, the only adieu

I shall make, and grant my last re
F 6 quest:

quest: leave me to my fate — forget me totally — do not reckon me among the living. There is a limit in misery, when even friendship augments our sufferings and cannot cure them — When wounds are mortal, all relief is cruel. Every sentiment but despair is foreign to my soul — nothing cannow suit me, but the darkness where I am going to bury my shame — There will I weep crimes, if I yet can weep; for since yesterday I have not shed a tear — my withered heart no longer furnishes any.

Adieu, Madame! Do not reply to this—I have taken a folemn oath on this letter never to receive another.

ty enough the en sheet sit, we had so he we were the series of the end of the

time for lainentation - nothing re-

mains but fufferings -- i want not

pity. I want throughly the every the

Receive, Madame, the only adient

LET-

fall, was dead on dying. At my return, he mearmed one, Madame de
Tourvel had acqually gone out et eleven in VIIX Profile Villa Ter Walting
naid; that the ordered her carriage

Viscount de VALMONT to the Marchio

risge and fervants back, fording word YESTERDAY, at three in the afternoon, being impatient, my lovely friend, at not having any news, I prefented myfelf at the house of the fair abandoned, and was told file was gone out. In this reply I could fee nothing more than a refufal to admit me. which neither furprifed nor vexed me; I retired, in hope this step would induce to polithed a woman to give me an answer. The defire I had to receive one, made me call home about nine, but found nothing. Aftonished at this filence, which I did not expect, I fent my huntfman on the enquiry for information, whether the tender ; snoth fair

fair was dead or dying. At my return, he informed me, Madame de Tourvel had actually gone out at eleven in the morning with her walting maid; that she ordered her carriage to the convent of -; that at feven in the evening the had fent her carriage and fervants back, fending word they fould not expect her home. This is certainly acting with propriety. The convent is the only afylum. for a widow; and if the perfits in for laudable a resolution, I shall add to all the obligations I already lay under, the celebrity this adventure will now have, bearing the price of the verse sayah

I told you fometime ago, not withflanding your uneafiness. I would
again appear in the world with more
brilliant eclat. Let those severe critics now show themselves, who accused me of a romantic passion; let
them make a more expeditious and
shining rupture: no, let them do

more:

more; bid them go offer their confolations—the road is chalked out for them; let them only dare run the career I have gone over entirely, and if any one obtains the least fuccess, I will yield him up the first place; but they shall all experience when I am in earnest; the impression I leave is indesible. This one I affirm will be so. I should even look on all former triumphs as trifles, if I was ever to have a savoured rival.

I own the step she has taken statters my vanity; yet I am forry she had so much fortitude to separate from me. There will be no obstacle, then, between us, but of my own formation. If I should be inclined to renew our connection, she, perhaps, would refuse; perhaps not pant for it, not think it the summit of happiness! Is this love? And do you think, my charming friend, I should bear it? Could I not, so example, and would

it not be better, endeavour to bring this woman to the point of forefeeing a possibility of a reconcillation, talways wished for while there is hope? I could try this course without any confequence, without giving you umbrage. It would be only a mere trial we would make in concert. Even if I should be fuccefsfuly it would be only an additional means of renewings at your pleafure, a facrifice which has feemed agreeable to you. Now, my charming friend, I am yet to receive ney reward, and all my vows are for your return Come, then, speedily to your lover, your pleafures, your friends, mand the purfait of adven-If I frould be inclined to regevienns

That of the little Volanges has had a furprising turn. Yesterday, as my uneafacts would not suffer me to stay long in a place, in my various excussions I called at Madagne Volanges's. I found your pupil in the saloon, in the

the drapery of a fick person but in full health, fresher, and more interesting. Some of you ladies, in such a case would keep yout beds for a month, Ohn rare lasses h Egad, this one has given me a strong inclination to know if the cute be complete.

I had almost forgot to tell you, the little girl's accident had like to have turned wyorks of estimental a Danceny's brains at fieffinit was for grief, ! but now lit is with joy! "His Cecilia was fick. Man will agree, the brain must turn with fuch armisforennes. Three times a day did he fend to enquire about herd and never missed every days going himfelf; at laft, he wrote a fine epiftle to the mama, begging leave to go and congratulate her on the recovery of fordear an object, Madame de Volanges affented ; forthard founds the young man established as heretofore, only not quite fo familian This. narrative I had from himfelf; for I TER I came

came out with him, and made him prate. You can't conceive what an effect this visit had on him; his joy, his wishes, his transports are inexpressible. As I am fond of grand emotions, I shished him, by telling him, in a few days I hoped to place him much nearer his fair one.

him as foon as I have made my trial. I will devote myfelf intirely to you; moreover, I don't dee it would be worth while your pupil should be my scholar, if the had only a husband to deceive. The chefied butter is to describe lovers and then first lover too! For I can't reproach myfelf with even having opronounced the word love situo and managed the word love situo and my lovely friend! Return as soon as possible to refume your only pite over me, to receive my homage, and give me my reward; too also and

1 Paris | Novel 28 porty See | 1 separate

LE T-

because I made you admined, by may

estimate vidaetteova, risofiluma da

LETTER CXLV.

The Marchioness de Menteuit to the Viscount de Valmons.

less the Presidence & Did you send her the lesser I wrote you for then? You are a charming sellow, indeed, and have surpassed my expectations! If must own, this triumph statters me more than all those I ever obtained. You will think, perhaps, I estimate this woman very highly, who I despreciated very lately; not in the least the jest, and it is easily delightful.

Yes, Viscount, you loved Madamey de Tourvel much, and you still love her s you love her to distraction : but because

because I made you ashamed, by way of amusement, you nobly facrifice her. You would have facrificed a thousand women rather than be laugh-To what lengths will not vanity lead us! The wife man was right when he fuid it was the foe to happinefs.

What would become of you now. if it had been only a trick I put upon you'l But I am incapable of deceit. and you know it well; and should you even in my turn reduce me to despair and a conventy I with rifle it; and furrender to my conqueror Still; is I do capitulare, upon my word it is from mere frailty , for were Linchned, how many cavils; could I not flare! and, perhaps, you would deferve them It

I admire, for example, with how much address, or awkward acts rathers. you foothingly propose I should let your renew with your Presidence I It would be very convenienc, would it not?

because

not? to take all the merit of this rupture without long the pleafure of onjoyment ! And then this proffered facrifice, which would no longer be one to you, is offered to be renewed at my pleafure! By this arrangement, the celeftial devotee would always think herfelf the only oboice of your hears, swhilf I foould wrap myfelf up in the pride of being the preferred rival; we should both be deceived with would be fatisfied : all the reft is of no confequence maids no viss of ms

miltois much to the lamented, that with fuch extraordinary talents for projects, you have to few for executiony and that by the inconfiderate ftep, you put an infurmountable obfracte to what your to much withed, it

What I you had, then, anoidea of renewing your connection, and wet you copied my letter le Vou melt, theh, have thought me awkward indeed! Believe me, Viscount, when a woman earth of

ftrikes

dom misses her blow, and the wound is incurable. When I struck this one, or rather directed the blow, I did not forget she was my rival, that you had for a moment preserved her to me, placed me beneath her. If I am deceived in my revenge, I consent to bear the blame; therefore, I agree you may attempt every means; even I invite you to it, and promise you I shall not be angry at your success. I am so easy on this matter, I shall say no more of it: let us talk of something else.

As to the health of the little Volanges, you will be able to give me forme positive news at my return. I shall be glad to have some. After that, you will be the best judge whether it will be most convenient to give the little girl up to her lover, or endeavour to be the sounder of a new branch of the Valmonts, under the name of Gercourt. This idea pleases me much: but in leaving the choice to yourself, I must yet require you will not come to a definitive resolution until we talk the matter over. It is not putting you off for a long time, for I shall be in Paris immediately. I can't positively say the day; but be affured, as soon as I arrive, you shall be the first informed of it.

Adieu, Viscount !/ notwithstanding my quarrels, my mischievousness, and my reproaches, I always love you much, and am preparing to prove it.

Adieu, till our next meeting.

Capte of Today I said a Sing seron Nov. 29, 17 10 to the contraction of the contraction o

respect to a property tood and one, foregring ago, you would have my exclusive confidence, it wants not to exclusive them; but yours drew on them. I thould be inclined to think

name of Gercourt: This idea pleafes

The Manchiopess de MERTEUIL to the Chevalier Dancenver

AT last I for our my point friend; to morrow evening I shall be in Panish. The hunry always attending a removal will prevent me from seeing any one. Yet if you should have any pressing considential business to impart, I shall except you broth the igeneral rule: but I except you alone; therefore request my arrival may be a secret. I shall not even inform Valmont of it.

Whoever would have told me, fometime ago, you would have my exclusive considence, I would not have believed them: but your's drew on mine. I should be inclined to think

think you had made use of some address, or, perhaps, seduction. That would be wrong, indeed! however, it would not at present be very dangerous; you have other business in hand. When the heroine is on the stage, we seldom take notice of the consident.

And, indeed, you have not had time to impart your late success to me. When your Cecilia was absent, the days were too short to listen to your plaintive strains. You would have told them to the echo, if I had not been ready to hear them. Since, when she was ill, you even honoured me with a recital of your troubles; you wanted some one to tell them to: but now your love is in Paris, that she is quite recovered, and you sometimes see her, your friends are quite neglected.

I do not blame you in the leaft, it is a fault of youth; for it is a received You. IV. G truth,

you, young people are unacquainted with friendship but in adversity. Happiness sometimes makes them indiscreet, but never presumptuous. I will say, with Socrates, I like my friends to come to me when they are unbappy: but, as a philosopher, he did very well without them if they did not come. I am not quite so wise as he, for I selt your silence with all the weakness of a woman.

However, do not think me too exacting; far from it. The same sentiment that leads me to observe those privations, makes me bear them with fortitude, when they are proofs, or the cause of the happiness of my friends. I shall, therefore, not depend on you for to-morrow evening, only as far as is consistent with love and want of occupation; and I positively forbid you to make me the least facrifice.

Adiey,

Adieu, Chevalier! it will be an abfolute regale to see you again — will you come?

Nov. 29, 17-.

LETTER CXLVII.

whiled to ble some to bled here

and were emice think forced to vie the

Madame de Volances to Madame de Rosemonde.

YOU will most assuredly be as much afflicted, my dear friend, as I am, when I acquaint you with Madame de Tourvel's state; she has been indisposed since yesterday: she was taken so suddenly, and her disorder is of such an alarming nature, that I am really frightened about it.

A burning fever, an almost constant and violent delirium, a perpetual thirst, are the symptoms. The phy-

G 2

Acians

ficians fay, they cannot as yet form their prognostics; and their endeavours are frustrated, as the patient obstinately refuses every kind of remedy: insomuch, that they were obliged to use force to bleed her; and were twice since forced to use the same method, to tie up the bandages, which she tore off in her fits.

You and I, who have seen her, so weak, so timid, so mild, could hardly conceive that sour persons scarcely could hold her; and on the least remonstrance she slies out in the greatest rage imaginable: for my part, I fear it is something worse than a raving, and borders on downright madness.

And what happened the day before yesterday adds to my fears.

On that day the came about eleven in the morning to the convent of — with her waiting maid. As the was educated in that house, and occasionally

ally came to visit there, she was received as asual, and appeared to every one in good health and very quiet. In about two hours after she asked, whether the room she had, whilst she was a pensioner, was vacant? and being answered in the affirmative, she begged seave to see it; the prioress and some of the muns accompanied her. She then declared she came back to settle in this room, which, said she, I ought never so have quitted; adding, she would not depart from it until death; that was her expression.

At first, they stared at each other:
but the first surprise being over, they
remonstrated, that, as a married woman, she could not be received without a special permission. That, and
a thousand other arguments were unavailable; and from that moment she
was obstinate, not only to remain in
the convent, but even not to stir from

Soit

the room. At length, being tired out, they consented, at seven in the evening, she should remain there that night. Her carriage and servants were sent home, and they adjourned until the next day.

of I have been affured, during the whole night her appearance and deportment did not exhibit the leaft wandering symptom; on the contrary, she seemed composed and deliberate; only fell into a profound reverie four or five times, which convertation could not remove; and every time before the recovered from it. the feemed forcibly to fqueeze her forehead with both hands of on which one of the nuns afked her if the had a pain in her head; fhe fixed her eyes on her fomerime before the replied, and faid, " My diforder is not there." Immediately after the begged to be left alone, and alfo, that in future is the revenue displace they

they should not put any questions to her.

Every one retired except her waiting maid, who was fortunately obliged to sleep in the same chamber.

According to the girl's account, her mistress was pretty quiet until about eleven at night; then the faid the would go to bed : but before the was quite undreffed, the walked to and fro in her room with much action and gesture. Julie, who was present at every thing that passed during the day, did not dare fay a word, and filently waited near an hour Ar length, Madame de Tourvel called her twice on a fudden; the had fearce time to reach her, when her miffress dropped in her arms, faying, " I can " hold out no longer." I She suffered her to lead her to her bed ; but would not take any thing, nor allow her to call for affiftance. She ordered her vinova io, induction Property co

Dan

only to leave her some water, and go to bed.

The girl avers, the did not go to fleep till two in the morning, and heard neither disturbance nor complaint. At five she was awoke by her mistress, who spoke in a strong loud tone. She asked, if the wanted any thing; but receiving no answer, she went to Madame de Tourvel's bedside with a light, who did not know her; but breaking off her incoherent discourse, exclaimed violently, "Leave me alone! Let me be less in darkness! It is darkness alone faits me!" I remarked vesterday, the often repeated those expressions.

At last, Julie took this opportunity to go out and call for assistance, which Madame de Tourvel refused with the greatest sury and madness. These fits have often returned since.

The diffress the whole convent was thrown in, induced the Prioress to send

send for me yesterday morning at seven, when it was not yet day. I went immediately. When I was announced to Madame de Tourvel, she seemed to come to herself, and said, "Ah! "yes, let her come in." She fixed her eyes on me when I came near her bed, and seizing my hand suddenly, she squeezed it, saying, in a strong, melancholy tone, "I die for not have ing taken your advice;" and immediately covering her eyes, she resultance? Ecc. and lest all reason.

Those discourses, and some others that sell from her in her delirium, make me apprehend this dreadful disorder has still a more cruel cause: but let us respect the secrets of our friend, and pity her missortune.

All yesterday was equally stormy, either sits of frightful deliriousness, or lethargic faintness, the only time when she takes or gives any rest. I

GG

did

tib

did not leave ther bed's head until nine at night, and am going again this morning for the day. In the more

ben I will not certainly abandon our unhappy friend: but her obstinacy in refusing all help and affistance is very diftrefling. so I have an no save tod

I inclose you the journal of last night, which I have just received, and which, as you will fee, brings but little consolation. I will take care to fend them you regularly.

Adieu, my worthy friend! I am going to visit our poor friend. My daughter, who is perfectly recovered, presents her compliments to you.

Paris, Nov. 29, 17

triend, and pay her included All reflecting was enough floring, timer has be renginted desirable neity

out let us reized the jecretaral our

or lethargic saintheils, the only time Her transcription east of LE T-

AND THE PROPERTY OF THE CONTRACT OF THE PROPERTY AND A STATE OF THE PROPERTY AND A STA

rate process in whither both there is

LETTER CXLVIII.

The Chevalier Danceny to the Marchioness de Merteuil.

O YOU, whom I love! O thou, whom I adore! O you, with whom my happiness hath commenced! O thou, who hast completed it! Compassionate friend! tender mistress! why does the restection that you are a prey to grief come to disturb my charmed mind? Ah, Madam! resume your calmness; it is the duty of friendship to make this entreaty. O my heart's only object! be happy; it is the prayer of love.

What reproaches have you to make to yourself? Believe me, your extraordinary delicacy misleads you. The regret it occasions you, the injuries it G 6 charges

charges me with, are equally imaginary; and I feel within my heart, that there has been between us no other seducer than love. No longer dread, then, to yield to those sentiments you inspire, or to partake of a flame you have kindled. What! would we have had more reason to boast of purity in our connection, if it had taken more time to form? Undoubtedly not. That is the characteristic of feduction, which, never acting unless by projects, is able to regulate its progress and means, and foresees events at a great distance: but true love does not permit that kind of meditation and reflection; it diverts us from thought with occupying us wholfy with fentiments. Its empire is never more powerful than when unknown; and it is in obscurity and silence that it steals upon us, and binds us in chains equally impossible to be perceived or to be broken. 16000 11 10 1011

Thus,

Thus, even yesterday, notwithstanding the lively emptions which the idea of your neturn caused in me, in defrance of the extreme pleasure I felt on feeing you. I nevertheless thought myfelf led and called upon by ferene friendship alone, or rather intirely abforbed by the freet fentiments of my heart, I concerned myfelf very little in tracing either their cause or origin. Like me, my dear friend, you experienced; though unconfeious of it. that all-powerful charm, which gave up our whole fouls to the rapturous impression of tenderness, and neither of us recognised it to be love, till after the intoxication that deity plunged Adject their whom I agos Lomi au

But that very circumstance is our exculpation, instead of our guilt. No, you did not betray the rights of friendship, nor have I abused your confidence. We both, it is true, were ignorant of our sentiments; but we only

only underwent the delution, without any efforts to give birth to it: and far from complaining of it, let us only think of the happiness it procured us, without disturbing it by unjust reproaches; let our only endeavours be to farther augment it, by the pleasures of confidence and intire fecurity. On my friend! how dear these hopes are to my heart ! Yes, henceforward freed from all fears, and wholly occupied by love, you will participate of my delires, of my transports, of the fweet delirium of my fenles, of the intoxication of my foul, and each moment of our happy days shall be marked by a new enjoyment.

Adieu, thou whom I adore! I shall fee thee this evening; but shall I find you alone? I hardly dare to hope it.

Ah! you do not desire it as much as I!

Paris, Dec. 1, 17

As the did not comeal from one that

you allo are acquainted with all her

LETTER CXLIX

Madame de Volanges to Madame

had been after about three hours

I Was in hopes almost all day yesterday, to have been able to give you, my worthy friend, this morning, a more favourable account of our dear patient; but since last night, that hope is utterly destroyed. A matter seemingly of very little importance, but which, in its consequences, proves to be a very unhappy one, has made the case at least as grievous as before, if not worse.

I should not have had any comprehension of this sudden change, if I had not received yesterday the entire considence of our unhappy friend. As she did not conceal from me that you also are acquainted with all her missortunes, I can inform you every thing without reserve of her unhappy stuation.

Acherday morning, on my arrival at the convent, I was informed she had been asseep about three hours; and that sleep, so profound and so easy, I for some time was apprehensive was lethargic — Some time after she awoke, and opened the curtains of the bed herself.

At first the looked at us all with great surprise, and as I role to go to her, the knew me, called me by my name, and begged I would come near her. She did not give me time to ask her any questions, but defired to know where she was; what we were doing there; if she was sick; and why she was not in her own house? I imagined at first, it was another phrenzy, only more

more gentle than the former: but I foon perceived the understood my replies perfectly; and she had recovered her reason, but not her memory.

She questioned me very minutely on every thing abar happened to her fince the came to the convent, which the did not remember. I gave her a faithful account, only concealing what I thought might frighten her too much: and when I asked how the was, the replied the did not then feel any pain; but was much tormented during her fleep; and found herfelf fatigued. I advised her to keep quiet, and say little: then I partly closed the curtains. and fat down by the fide of her bed : fome broth was thee proposed, which the agreed to take, and liked it very preblive would be thestopic of llaw

She continued thus about half an hour, and only spoke to thank me for my care of her, which she did with that graceful ease you know is so natural.

· istilis i

natural to her; afterwards she was for some time quite filent, which she broke at length, faying, " O yes, I now remember my coming here;" and a minute after, exclaimed grievoully, My dear friend, have pity on me! My miseries are all returning on " me." I was then coming towards her, she grasped my hand, and leaning her head against it, " Great God!" faid the, "cannot I then die !" Her expression more than her words melted me into tears; she perceived it by my voice, and faid, " you pity me then; ah, if you but knew !"-Then breaking off: " Let us be alone, and I will tell you all "bla add you are obtail has

I helieve I already wrote to you I had some suspicions, which I was apprensive would be the topic of this conversation that I foresaw would be tedious and melancholy, and might probably be very detrimental to the present state of our unhappy friend.

1 en-

I endeavoured to diffusde her from it, by urging the necessity of repose; she however, insisted, and I was obliged to acquiesce.

As foon as we were alone, the acquainted me with every thing you already know, therefore unnecessary to be repeated.

At last, relating the cruel manner in which the was facrificed, the added, was very certain it would be my death, and I was refolved but it "is impossible to furvive my shame and grief." I attempted to contend against this deptession, or rather de-Spair, with motives of a religious nature, always hitherto fo powerful in her mind; but I was foon convinced I was not equal to this folemn function, and I determined to propole calling in Father Anfelmus, in whom I knew the repotes great confidence! She confented, and even appeared much to defire it- He was fent for, and came imme-

omen

immediately: he staid a long time with her, and said, going away, if the physicians were of the same opinion he was, the ceremony of the sacraments he thought might be postponed until

the day following, driw and beanismp

This was about three in the afternoon, and our friend was pretty quiet until five, fo that we all began to conceive some hope; but unfortunately a letter was then brought for her; when it was offered to her, the replied at first she would not receive any, and no one pressed it; but from that time the feemed more disturbed. Soon after she asked from whom the letter came?—It had no post-mark - Who brought it?-No one knew - From what place did the messenger say it came? - The portress was not informed. She remained filent forme time afters then again, began to speak; but her discourse was so incoherent, we were apple in ... He was leat for, and came

foon convinced the phrenzy was re-

However there was a quiet interval afterwards, until at last the defired the letter should be given to lier. The moment the east her eyes on it; the exclaimed. " Good God! from him!" and then in a strong and oppressed sone of voice, " Take it, take it." She instantly ordered the curtains of her bed to be closed, and defired no one should come near her; but we were all foon obliged to come round her: the phrenzy returned with more violence than ever, accompanied with most dreadful convulsions - Those shocking incidents continued the whole evening; and the account I received this morning, informs me, the night has been no less turbulent. On the whole, I am aftonished she has held out fo long in the condition the is: and I will not conceal from. you, that I have very little, if any, hope of her recovery.

I suppose this unfortunate letter is from M. de Valmont—What! can he still dare to write to her! Forgive me, my dear friend; I must put a stop to my resections—It is, however, a most cruel case, to see a woman make so wretched an end, who has, until now, lived so happy, and was so worthy being so.

Paris, Dec. 2, 17.—

The second secon

your is designed in any of what are Live to week-Certisal-t-fluit Belief

Chevalier DANCENY to the Marchioness de MERTEUIL.

Of the head of dedger rappu N expectation of the happiness of feeing you, I indulge myfelf, my tender friend, in the pleasure of writing to you; and thus by occupying myfelf with you, I dispel the gloom that otherwise would be occasioned by your absence. To delineate to you my sentiments, to recal yours to my mind, is a true enjoyment to my heart; and thus even the time of privation affords me a thousand ideas precious to my love - Yet, if I am to believe you, I shall not obtain any anfwer from you, even this letter shall be the last, and we shall abandon a correspondence which, according to 101

WOY.

you, is dangerous, and of which we have no need—Certainly I shall believe you if you perfist; for what can you defire that does not of course become my defire? But before you ultimately decide upon it, will you not permit a slight conversation on the subject.

Of the head of danger you are the only judge — I can frame no calculation of it — and I shall confine myself to requesting you would look to your own safety, for I can have no tranquillity while you are disquieted — As to this object, it is not we two that are but one, it is thou that art us both.

As to the matter of necessity, we can have but one thought; and if we differ in opinion, it can only rise from a want of proper explanation, or from not understanding one another. I shall therefore state to you what I think is my sensation.

Without doubt a letter appears very unnecessary when we can see one ano-

ther freely — What could it say that a word, or look, or even silence itself, could not express? A hundred times before, this appeared to me so clear, that in the very moment that you spoke to me of not writing any more, that idea my mind immediately adopted — It was a restraint upon it perhaps, but did not affect it — Thus, when I have offered a kiss upon your bosom, and sound a ribband or piece of gauze in my way, I only turn it aside, and have not the least sentiment of an obstacle.

But fince we have separated, and you are no longer there, this idea of correspondence by letters has returned to torment me — What is the reason, I have said to myself, of this additional privation? Why is ir, because we are at some distance, we have nothing more to say to each other? Suppose that a fortunate concurrence of circumstances should bring us together Vol. IV. H

for a day, shall we then employ in convertation the time that ought to be wholly dedicated to enjoyment, which letters between us would prevent? I fay enjoyment, my dear friend; for with you the very moments of repose furnish, too, a delicious enjoyment; in a word, whenever fuch a happy opportunity offers, the conclusion is still feparation; and one is fo folitary, it is then a letter becomes truly precious: if not read, it is fure to be the only object that employs the eye. Ah! there can be no doubt, but one may look at a letter without reading it; as I think that I even could have fome pleasure at night by barely touching your portrait, let W -- 900 the march

Your portrait have I said? but a letter is the portrait of the soul; it has not, like a cold image, that degree of stagnation so opposite to love; it yields to all our actions by turns; it becomes animated, gives us enjoyment,

ment, and finks into repose — All your sentiments are precious to me; and will you deprive me of the means of becoming possessed of them?

Are you quite fure that a defire to write to me will never torment you? If in the midft of your folitude your heart should be too much compressed or dis lated; if a joyous emotion should pass to your foul; if an involuntary fadness should disturb it for a moment, it would not then be in the bosom of your friend that you would pour out your happiness or distress; you would then have a fensation he should not share; and you would punish him to wander in solitude and distrust far from you. My friend, my dearest friend! you are to pronounce - I have only proposed to myself to discuss the question with you, and not to over-rule you-I have only offered you reasons - I dare hope I should have stood on H 2 ftronger stronger ground if I had proceeded to entreaties—I shall endeavour, then, if you should persist, not to be afflicted; I shall use my efforts to tell my self what you would have wrote to me; but you would tell it better than I, and I should have a much higher gratification in hearing it from you.

Adieu, my charming friend! The hour approaches at last, when I shall be able to see you: I sly from you with the more haste, in order the sooner to meet you again.

Paris, Dec. 3, 17-

regroad and a

and you would panish and from you will you will frend, my dearest from the your are to pronounce — the early frend, you would to mylest the control of the early on the early on the early on the early of the early

leaft this road blood I thousand the first

doubled the price wexassence this ve

LETTER CLI.

The Viscount de Valmont to the Marchieness de Merteuil.

wolfindharagnini Thoy bannet aved SURELY, Marchiones, you do not take he to be fuch a novice, to imagine I could be duped in the recea-tere which I found you in this afternoon; or by the aftonifbing chance that led Dancery to your house! Not but your well - practifed countenance wonder fully afflimed madicalmo ferency of expression or that you by the most triffing word, betrayed, which formetimes happens, the least disorder or uneafinefs. I will even allow your fubmiffive looks ferved you eminently; and could they have made themselves as well credited as readily understood, far from having or harbouring the had be able to collist them in your

ildua

least suspicion, I should not at all have doubted the great vexation this troublesome trio gave you. But to display to greater advantage those extraordinary talents, to insure the success you promised yourself, to carry on the deception you intended, you should have formed your inexperienced lover with more care.

Since you have begun to educate youth, you should teach your pupils not to blush or be disconcerted at a little raillery; not to deny so warmly for one woman, the same charge which they so faintly excuse themselves in for all others; teach themselves in for all others; teach themselves in sor hear encomiums on their mistress, without enhancing them.

And if you per nit them to fix their looks on you in the circle, let them be taught to disguise that glance of enjoyment which is so easy to discover, and which they so unskilfully blend with the glance of love — Then you will be able to exhibit them in your public

public exercises, and their behaviour will not do any prejudice to their sage institutrix. Even myself, happy to be able to contribute to your celebrity, will compose and publish the exercises to be performed in this new college.

But I am aftonished, I must own, that you should have undertaken to treat me as a school-boy. O! with any other woman, what pleasure I should have in being revenged! How transcendent it would be to that she should think to deprive me of! Yes, it is for you alone I condescend to give preference to satisfaction rather than revenge: and do not think I am restrained by the least doubt or uncertainty — I know alt.

You have been in Paris now four days, and each day Danceny has been with you, and you have not admitted any one but him — even this day your door was still close; and had your

porter's affurance been equal to his mistress's, I should not have seen you; yet you wrote me I might depend on being the first informed of your arrival. Of that same arrival, the particular day of which could not be afcertained, although you was writing to me the eve of your departure-Can you deny those facts, or will you attempt to excuse them? They are both equally impossible; and still I keep my temper! Acknowledge here your power; be fatisfied to have experienced it, but do not any longer abuse it. We know each other, Marchionels; that should be sufficient.

To morrow you are to be out for the day you told me; be it so, if you really go out, and you think I shall know it: but you will be home in the evening; we shall not have too much time until the next day to settle our difficult reconciliation. Let me know, then, if it will be at your house, or yonder. reciprocal expiations. But no more of Danceny; your wrong head had filled itself with his idea, and I am willing to overlook this delirium of your fancy; but remember, from this moment, that what was only a whim, would become a decided preference. I am not tempered for such an humiliation, neither do I expect to receive it from you.

I even expect this facrifice will be but trifling to you — If it should be a little troublesome, I think, however, I have set you a tolerable example! A sensible and lovely woman, who existed for me only, who, perhaps, at this instant, is expiring with love and grief, may well be worth a young scholar, who, if you will, wants neither wit or accomplishments, but is deficient in consistency.

Adieu, Marchioness! I say nothing of my sentiments for you; all I can do

heart. I wait your answer. Remember, the easier it is for you to make me forget the injury you have done me, the more a denial, even the least delay, would engrave it in indelible characters on my heart.

Paris, Dec. 3, 17- upoot blow

LETTER CLIL

i aminot tempered for fuch an home!

listions hereliands if expect to receive

The Marchioness de Merteuil to the Viscount de Valmont.

TAKE care, Viscount; have a little more regard for my extreme timidity. How do you think I can support the unsufferable idea of your indignation; but especially that I do not sink under the terror of your vengeance? particularly as you know, if you defamed me, it would be impossi-

ble

ble for me to return the compliment. In vain should I babble; your existence would nevertheless be brilliant and peaceful: for what would you have to dread? Only to be under the necessity of retiring if you had an opportunity. But could one not live in a foreign country as well as here? And to fum up all, provided the court of France would let you be quiet in the one you chuse to settle in, it would be only changing the field of your victories. After endeavouring to bring you back to your sang froid by these moral considerations, let us resume our own affairs. telleristen's his

You do not know, Viscount, the reasons I never married again. It was not, I assure you, for want of several advantageous matches being offered to me; it was solely that no one should have a right to control me. It was not even a dread of not being able to pursue my inclinations, for

certainly, at all events, that I should have done: but it would have pained me if any one should even have a right to complain. On the whole, it was that I would not wish to deceive but for my own pleasure, and not through necessity. And behold you write me the most matrimonial letter it is possible to conceive! You tell me of the injuries I have committed, and the favours you have granted! I cannot conceive how it is possible to be indebted to one where nothing is due.

Now for the business. You found Danceny at my house, and you was displeased; be it so: but what conclusion do you draw from thence? Why, that it was the effect of chance, as I told you, or of my inclination, which I did not tell you. In the first instance, your letter is wrong; in the fecond, ridiculous. It was well worth the trouble of writing! But you are jealous,

jealous, and jealoufy never debates. Well, I will argue for you.

You have a rival, or you have not. If you have a rival, you must please, to obtain the preference over him; and if you have none, you must still please, to avoid having one. In all cases the same invariable conduct must be observed. Why, then, will you torment yourfelf? - And why torment me? Have you, then, loft the fecret of being the most amiable? And are you no longer certain of your fuccess? Come, come, Viscount, you do yourfelf injustice. But that is not the case, for I will not, even in your mind, have you give yourself so much uneasiness. You wish less for my condescension, than an opportunity of abusing your power. Fie! you are very ungrateful! I think this is tolerably fentimental; and was I to continue any time, this letter might beof the drive laws are a come

come very tender: but you don't de-

Neither do you deserve I should enter farther in my justification. To punish you for your suspicions, you shall keep them; so that I shall make no reply as to the time of my return, or Danceny's visits. You have taken great trouble to be informed of them, most certainly: and pray what progress have you made by it? I hope you received great pleasure from your enquiries; as to mine, it has not been in the least detrimental to them.

All I can say, then, to your threatening letter is this—it has neither the gift of pleasing, nor power to intimidate me; and that at this present time I am not in the least disposed to grant your request.

And, indeed, to receive you, as you exhibit yourself now, would be a downright act of infidelity: it would not be a renewal with my former lover;

Acquaint him, however, that it eannot by any means be either to-day or to-morrow. His Menæchmus has done him some harm, and was I in too much haste, I should dread a deception; or, perhaps, I have given my word to Danceny for those two days: moreover, your letter informs me you do not jest; when one breaks their word, therefore, you see you must wait.

That is, however, of very little consequence, as you can always be revenged on your rival. He will not treat your mistress worse than you will

his; and after all, is not one woman as good as another? These are your own principles. Even she who should be tender and sensible, who existed only for you, who was dying of love and grief, would nevertheless be facrificed to the first whim, or the dread of being ridiculed for a moment; and yet you would have one constrain themselves! Ah! that is not reasonable.

Adieu, Viscount! become once more amiable. It is the utmost of my wishes to find you charming as ever. When I am certain of it, I engage to prove it to you — indeed, I am too good natured.

Paris, Dec. 4, 17 100 19 100 100

etail liber, to pression ai sail to a compensor

word, others are, you les you inti-

yonged on your rival. He will not

they not need of we should be une re-

in medica expected within multiplement

are a checolonic mode mode when the

LETTER CLIII.

Viscount de Valmont to the Marchioness de Merteuil.

I REPLY to your letter on the instant, and will endeavour to be explicit; which is not an easy matter with you, when you have once determined not to understand.

Many words are not necessary to convince us, each has the power of ruining the other; we have an equal interest to keep fair with one another: that is not the business at present. But between the violent determination of destruction, and doubtless the more eligible one of being still united as hitherto, or of even being more so, by renewing our first attachment; between those two parties, I say, there

Bormion

are a thousand more to be taken. It was not, then, ridiculous to tell you, neither is it to repeat, that from this day I will either be your lover or your enemy.

I am very sensible the choice will give you some uneasiness; that it would be more convenient for you to shuffle. I am also satisfied, you never liked to be confined to yes or no; but you must be sensible, I cannot let you from this small circle, without risking being deceived; and you ought to have foreseen, I would not bear it. You are now to decide. I may leave you the choice, but will not remain in uncertainty.

I only inform you beforehand, I will not be imposed on by your arguments, good or bad; that I will no longer be seduced by any ornamental wheedling with which you might embellish a refusal; and that the hour of frankness is arrived. I wish for nothing

nothing more than to fet you the example; and I declare with pleafure, I prefer peace and union. If it is necessary to break one or the other, I think I have the right and the means.

Therefore I will add, the least obstacle you make, I shall consider as a declaration of war. You will observe, the answer I demand does not require either long or studied sentences : two words will be fufficients a load and and

telly chiployed in toy, attendance on Paris, Dec. 4, 17-

The answer of the Marchioness de Merteuil, wrote at the bottom of this Jame fetteredt ni jou fib I glaistus

your at their met other marting to be

War, then a low your good I

Validate who has been plonded to child mother's confident, and even his

mediatic with Mudame & Toured,

to whom he wrote nader my cover.

required the and when I industed the

eshen. I madinic you any andown hois--

LET-

nothing more than to fee your the che

amile; and I dethat, with plenting

LETTER CLIV.

Madame de Volanges to Madame de Rosemonde.

declaration of war. You will a A HE journal will inform you much better than I can, my dear friend, the melancholy state of our patient. Totally employed in my attendance on her, I have scarce time to write to you, as there are other matters to be attended to as well as her diforder. Here is a specimen of one which most certainly I did not in the least expect. I have received a letter from M. de Valmont, who has been pleased to chuse me for a confidant, and even his mediatrix with Madame de Tourvel. to whom he wrote under my cover. I returned the one when I answered the other. I transmit you my answer; and THE

and I believe you will be of my opinion, that I neither could or ought to have any thing to do with what he requests. Had I been even inclined to it, our unhappy friend was unable to understand me. Her phrenzy is incessant. But what do you think of M. de Valmont's distraction? Is it real, or does he mean to deceive the world to the last?*

If he is fincere this time, he may well fay, he has made himself happy. I believe he will not be well pleased with my answer: but, I own, every thing that fixes my attention on this unhappy adventure, raises my resentment more and more against the author of it.

Adieu, my dear friend! I must re-

mainted with your differs.

which

^{*} Nothing having appeared in this correfpondence that could refolve this doubt, we chose to suppress Valment's letter.

which becomes more so, by the small prospect there is of success. I need not repeat my sentiments for you.

Paris, Dec. 5, 17 10 19 and I have

and LET FERE CLY.

thand one. Her phrency is incellent.

The Viscount de Valmont to the Chevalier Danceny,

I CALLED on you twice, my dear Chevalier; but fince you have thrown off the character of a lover for the man of intrigue, you are very properly invisible: however, your valet affured me you would be at home to night; that you had ordered him to expect you. I, who am well acquainted with your defigns, immediately conjectured it would be but for a short time for fashion's sake, and that you would immediately pursue

your victorious career. Go on; I must applaud you: but, perhaps, you will be tempted to alter your course for this night. You are yet acquainted with only half your business; I must let you into the other half, and then you will resolve. Take time, then, to read my letter. It will not dissipate you from your enjoyments; on the contrary, its object is to give you your choice.

If you had opened your mind confidentially to me; if you had told me the part of your secrets you lest me to guess at, I should with my zeal, and less awkwardness, have smoothed the path of your progression. But let us set out from this point. Whatever resolution you take would, at worst, be the summit of good fortune to any one else.

You have a rendezvous for tonight: have you not? With a charming woman, whom you adore? For

and a

at your age, where is the woman one does not adore for, at least, the first eight days? The field of action should also add greatly to you enjoyment—A delicious little villa, which was taken for you only, must embellish voluptuousness with the charms of mysteriousness and liberty. All is agreed on: you are expected; and you are inflamed with desire to be there! All this we both know, though you told me nothing of it. Now I will tell you what you do not know; but you must be told.

Since my return to Paris, I have been taken up with contriving the means of an interview between you and Mademoiselle de Volanges: I promised it; and when I last mentioned it to you, I had reason to expect from your answer, I may say, from your transports, I was exerting myself in your happiness. I could not succeed alone in this difficult undertaking:

taking: but after having settled every thing, I lest the rest with your young mistress. She found resources in her affection, resources which escaped my experience; after all, to your great missortune she has succeeded. She told me this evening, for these two days past all obstacles are removed, and your happiness depends on yourself alone.

She flattered herfelf, alfo, for those two days, to have been able to fend you this news herfelf, and notwithstanding her mama's absence you would have been admitted: but you never once shewed yourself! and I must farther tell you, whether from reason of capricioufness, the little thing did not feem pleafed at your want of affiduity. At last the found means to fee me, and made me promife to deliver you the inclosed letter as foon as possible. From the eagerness the expressed, I would venture to VOL. IV. lay

lay a wager the gives you an affiguation this night; however, I promised her, upon honour and friendship, you should have the tender summons in the course of the day, and peither can or will break my word.

Now, young gentleman, how will you behave in this business & Placed between coquetry and love pleafure: and happiness, which will you chuse? If I was writing to the Danbeng of three months ago, or even the Danceny of a week past certain of the emotions of his heart, I should be certain of his proceedings; but the Danceny of the day, carried away byn women, hunting after intrigue, and according, to custom, a little profigate, will be prefer a simplous young girl, who has, nothing, but beauty, innocence, and love, to the allurements of a common intriguen & co shim

For my, partermy, deat of friends Is think, revending your many systems a

which, I confess, I am not much averse to, circumstances would decide the preference to the lover. First, it is an additional conquest, then the novelty is attracting, and the fear of loning the fruits of your address, by neglecting to gather them; for to take it in this point of view, it would really be an opportunity milled, which is not always to be regained, especially in a first weakness: often in this case, a moment of ill humour, a jealous fuspicion, even less, may prevent the finest conquest. Sinking virtue will formetimes grafp at a twig; and once escaped, will be on its guard, and not eafily furprised.

On the other hand, you hazard nothing; not even a rupture; at most, a little quarrel: then your purchase with a little trouble the pleasure of a reconciliation; for what other resource has a woman you have already enjoyed but compliance? What would she get by severity? The privation of pleasure, without profit, for her glory.

If, as I suppose, you make love your choice, which appears to me, also, that of reason, I think it would be more prudent not to fend any apology for the disappointment of the rendezvous; leave her in expectancy; for if you venture to give a reason, she will, perhaps, be tempted to dive into the truth. Women are curious and obstinate. All may be discovered: I myself, you see, am now an example of this truth: But if you let her remain in hope, which will be supported by vanity, it will not be lost until a long time after the proper hour for information is over; then to-morrow you will have time to chuse the infurmountable obstacle that detained you': you may have been fick, dead if necessary, or any thing else that has almost made you frantic, and all will be made up. they second throughout

But which ever side you incline to, I only beg you will inform me; and as I am totally unconcerned, I will always think you have done right. Adieu, my dear friend!

All I have to add is, I regret M. de Tourvel. I am in a state of desperation at being separated from her; and I would lay down one half my life, to devote the other to her. Ah! believe me, there is no selicity but in love.

Paris, Dec. 5, 17-

Work!

Assertion than entered in entered for the section of the section o

for some days park, mame it rever to seems, and you know is — I that to ed asyock you would have taken the "Pography, becores do not at all their of me — I am very unbappyBut which ever actions incline on.

being the control of the property and these

LETTER CLVI.

CECILIA VOLANGES 70 the Chevalier DANCENY.

(Annexed to the former.)

How happens it, my dear friend, I no llonger fee you; although I never cease wishing for it? Your inclinations then, are no longer like mine! Ah, it is now I am truly forrowful! More so, than when we were totally separate. The affliction I was used to receive from others, now proceeds from you, which is more insupportable.

For some days past, mama is never at home, and you know it — I flattered myself you would have taken the opportunity; but you do not at all think of me — I am very unhappy — How Plow often have you told me, I did not love as much as you did — I was certain it was otherwise, and am now convinced. Had you called, you might have seen me, for I am not like you; I think of nothing but how to contrive to see you — You deserve I should not tell you all I have done; but I tove you so much, and have so strong a desire to see you, I can't help telling you, and then I shall see as you really love me.

Thave fecured the porter, and he has promifet every time you come no one shall fee you; and we may confide in him, for he is a very honest than. There is then no other difficulty to prevent any one in the house feeing you, and that will be very easy to do; it is only to come at hight; then there will be no danger at all—for since mama goes out every day, the always goes to bed at eleven;

TICH!

fo that we shall have a great deal of

The porter told me when you had a mind to come this way, instead of knocking at the door, you need only tap at the window, and he would open the door directly, and then you can readily find the back-stairs - As you will not have any light, I will leave my chamber door open, which will give you some little. You must take great care not to make any noise, particularly paffing by mama's little door. As to my waiting maid's room, it is of no fignification, for the has promiled me not to be awake, and the is also a very good girl! When you are going away it will be the fame thing-Now we shall see whether you will come only to come emos liw

O, Lord! I don't know why my heart beats so while I am writing to you! Is it the fore-runner of any miffortune, or is it the hope of seeing you

you that makes me thus? This I know, I never loved you so much, and never so much wished to tell you so. Come, then, my dear, dear friend, that I may a thousand times repeat I love you— I adore you, and never will love any but you.

I found a method to inform M. de Valmont I wanted to see him, and had something to say to him; and as he is our very good friend, will come to-morrow certainly. I will beg of him to give you my letter immediately—That I shall expect you to-morrow night, and you will not fail to come, if you have not a mind to make your Cecilia very miserable.

Adieu, my dear friend! I embrace

this nie teers never readend her a

le Paris, Dec. 4, 17-,0 sont dinan

I 5 LET-

Lent Fresh am realing and poy

know, I sever lived you to duck,

LETTER CLVIL

The Chevalier Dancent to the Visi

the dings about the distinct reference

involve of Ladertake South 100

DOUBT neither the emotions of my heart, or my proceedings, my dear Viscount - Is it possible I could refift a wish of my Cecilia's? Ah! it is the, and the alone, I will exer love! Her openness, her tenderness, fixed fuch a spell over me, that nothing can ever efface, although I have been weak enough to fuffer a diffraction. Imperceptibly, I may fay, engaged in another adventure, the remembrance of Cecilia has diffurhed me in the tenderest moments; and perhaps my heart never rendered her a more faithful homage, than at the in-Stant from I was unfaithful to her. However, my dear friend, let us spare her delicacy, and hide my fault; not to deceive, but only not to afflict her. Occilia's happinels is the most ardens with of my beart; and I should never forgive myself a fault which should cost her a test.

I feel I deferved the banter pop pals upon me, relative to what you call my new fystem: but I beg you will be affured, I am not led by them at this time; I am relotved to prove it to morrow 1 will go and aceufe myfelf even to her who has been the cause and parener of my error I will tell her; " reading heart; there wyou will fee the renderest friend " thip; friendling united to befire o fo much relembles love! We have w both been deceived, but although " liable to error I am incapable of " deceit." I know my friend well; the has probity, and is gentle; the will bluow I do do more than pardon, she will approve my conduct; she has often reproached herself for having betrayed friendship; her delicacy has often alarmed her love; more considerate than me, she will strengthen my mind with those useful apprehensions which I rashly endeavoured to stifle in hers—I shall owe my reformation to her, and my selicity to you. O, my friends! partake my gratitude: the idea of being indebted to you for my happiness, augments its value.

Adieu, my dear Viscount! the excess of my joy does not prevent me
from thinking and sharing your troubles. Why can I not serve you? M.
de Tourvel still remains inexorable
then! It is said she is very ill — May
she at once recover health and condescension, and for ever make you hapby! They are the yows of sciendship;
and I dare hope will be granted by
love and allowed by hope will be granted by

Daido Bavel

time preffes, and perhaps Cecilia already expects inc. aid to be and

through that of enqueury, another wo-

LETTER CLVIII.

a violing than hardly knows how to re-

fit inchessions of that voir fee a flugle

The Viscount de VALMONT to the Mar-

WELL, Marchioness, how are you after the pleasures of last night? Are you not a little fatigued? You must acknowledge Danceny is a charming fellow! That lad is a prodigy! You did not expect such things from him; is it not true? I must do myself justice; such a rival deserved I should be facrificed to him. Seriously he has a number of good qualities! So much love, so much constancy, so much delicacy! Ah! if ever he loves you as he

he does his Cacilia, you will have no accasion to dread being rivalted; the has proved it this might. Berhaps through dint of coquetry, another woman may entice him for a thort time; a young man hardly knows how to refist incitements; but you see a single word from the beloved object is sufficient to dissipate the illusion; so that there is nothing wanting to complete your happiness, but being that beloved object.

Certainly you will not be mistaken;
you have such exquisite seeling it is
not to be upprehended: were the friendship that unites us, as sincere on my
side as acknowledged on yours, made
me wish you should experience the
proof of this night, it is an effort of
my seal— It has succeeded — But no
acknowledgements — it is not worth
while—nothing more easy.

But to the point, what did it coff med Why a light factified and a little

tle address. I consented to share with the young man the favours of his miftrefs; but he had as great a right to them as I had, and I was not in the least uneasy about them. The letter the young creature wrote him, I dictated; but it was only to gain a little time, as we could employ it to fo much better purpole. What I wrote with it was nothing, almost nothing. / Some few friendly reflections to direct the new lover; but upon honour they were ufeles - To tell the truth, he did not helitate a moment. Moreover, he is to wait on you to-day to relate all; and at certainly will give you great pleafure! He will tell you, read my bears; fo he writes me; and you fee that I will fertle every thing. I hope that in reading what he pleases, you will also perhaps read, that fuch young lovers are dangerous - and also, that it is better to have me for a friend than an enemy.

Paris, Dec. 6, 17-.

the young man the tavours of his haif-

LETTER CLIX.

ele address. I confented to flure with

The Marchioness de MERTEUIL to the Viscount de VALMONT.

A DO not like to have scurvy jests added to bad actions; it is not agreeable to my taste or manner. When I have cause of complaint against a person, I do not ridicule, I do better; I take revenge. However well pleased you may be with yourself now, do not forget it is not the first time you have applauded yourself before hand; and singular, in the hope of a triumph that would escape from you, at the instant you was congratulating yourself on it. Adieu.

Column and the advisors on enemy! O

Paris, Dec. 6, 17

T. 3. 4 Dec. 6, 17-

girl did not know who to direct it to.
I was at first furprifed the letter itself

LETTER CLX

immediate a grown and the first her million a gain Madame Madame de Rosemon presidente de Rosemon presidente de contrata de la contrata del contrata de la contrata de la contrata del contrata de la con

I WRITE this from the chamber of your unhappy friend, whose state is pretty much the same: there is to be a consultation held this afternoon, of sour physicians—I need not tell you this resource is oftner a proof of the danger than the means of relief.

However, it seems her head is something better since last night—her waiting maid told me this morning, her mistress ordered her to be called about twelve: she defired they should be left alone, and dictated a pretty long letter—Julie adds, while she was folding it, Madame Tourvel was attacked with her delirium, so that the

girl

girl did not know who to direct it to. I was at first surprised the letter itself was not sufficient to inform her; but telling me she was afraid of committing a mistake, and that her mistress had ordered her to send it away immediately, I took it upon me to open it.

There I found the inclosed writing, which is dertainly not addressed to any body, being addressed to too many. Yet, I believe, nour unhappy friends at first intended it for M. de Valmont, but gave way impercaptibly, to her disordered ideas. However, I shought it sught not to be sent to any one. I send it you, as you will see better than I can tell you, it would be that engage the head of our patient. Whilst she continues so intensely affected, I shall have very little hopes the body soldom renovers when the mind is so agitated.

, bolow with her delirium, to that the

Adieu, my dear and worthy frient! I am happy you are far from the difmal spectacle I have incessantly before myleyes. was besent the ob riggins at -could atmound you exist too of sad

Paris, Dec. 6. 17-

raise away that cinet regionalist cawa eciat

the advantages I tare loft. Althorich

of their world sow I'-- ment to The Presidente de Tourvel.

(Distated by ber, and wrote by ber weiting maid.)

WRUEL and mischievous being! will thou mever be tired perfecuting me? Is it not enough to have tormented, degrated, abased? Will thou then rob me of the peaceful tomb? In the gloom of this abode, where frame has drove me to thusy myfelf, are my fufferings to have no respite; isshope chemile .

to be for ever banished? I do not require a favour I am undeferving of: I shall suffer without complaint, if my fufferings do not exceed my frength: but do not make my torments infupportable - Leave me my forrows, and take away the cruel remembrance of the advantages I have loft. Although thou hast ravished them from me, do not again draw the afflicting picture of them - I was happy and innocent - I gazed on thee and loft my peace - I listened to thee and was guilty - Thou cause of all my crimes, who gave thee authority to punish them?

Where are now the friends to whom I was dear I My misfortunes have frightened them—No one dares come near me—I am oppressed and left without relief—I die and no one weeps over me—I am debarred of every consolation—Pity stops on the brink of the abys where the criminal plunges

plunges remorie tears my heart, and itsicries are not heard, mid ve bas mid

-And ahou who I have injured thou, whole efteem adds to my tor ment - thou who only haft a right to revenge; why art thou far from me? Come, punish a faithless woman-Let me fuffer the tortures I deferve -- 1 should have already bowed to thy vengeance, but wanted courage to inform thee of thy shame; it was not diffimulation, it was respect. Let this letter at least acquaint thee with my repentance. Heaven has taken thy cause in hand, to punish an injury to which thou wast a stranger - It was heaven tied my tongue - It was heaven prevented my delign, left you hould pardon a crime it was refolved to pust nish - It fnatched me from thy commiferation, which would have open peledits judgment of leafless rebast

But unmerciful in its vengeance, it

folegen

the statement of the state of t

How! It is the I I am not deceived, it is the life again — Oh; my lovely friendly receive me in thy tender arms; hide me in thy boform! It is thee; yes, it is thyfelf — What fault illustoned ceived me? Ah, how have I fuffered during thy absoned—Lat us part no more aller us never part. Let me breather Feel my heart, how it beats! Abbut is not longer with fear; it is the softe emotion of dove; why refule my tender careffes? Turn thy languilling eyes, towards one — What are those bands you want to break? Why those folemn

folemn preparations for death? What can thus alter thy countenance? Leave me! I shudder! O, God! This monster again! My dear friends, do not abandon me — You that wanted me to avoid him; help me to relist him. And you more lenient, who promised to soften my sorrows, why do not you come to me? Where are you both I If I must no longer see you, at least answer this letter, let me hear you, still love me.

Leave me, then, cruel man! What new transport inspires thee? Art thou afraid a soft sentiment should invade me thou redoublest my torments—You will force me to hate you—O, how painful is hatted! how it corrodes the heart from whence it is distilled! Why will you persecute me? What can you have more to say to me? Have you not made it impossible for me either to hear or answer you. Farewest.

Paris, Dec. 6, 17 .-

iolema justifications for death? What can thus alter thy countenance? Leave

on ob showing R CLXIL

Chepalier Danceny to the Viscount belimong ode Valmont and to the Nacount

to folien for forews, why do not you AM informed, Sir, of your behaviour towards me - I also know. that after having basely sported with me, you have dared to applaud yourfelf and brag of it - The proof of your treachery I have feen under your hand - I cannot help acknowledging my heart was pierced, and I felt fome shame at having myself so much affifted in the odious abuse you made of my blind confidence: fill 1 do not envy you this shameful advantage-I am only curious to know. whether you will equally preserve them all over me - This I shall be

informed of, if, as I hope, you will be to morrow morning, between eight and nine, at the gatemof the wood of Vincennes, village of St. Maude, I will take care to provide every thing necessary for the ecclair ment, which remains for me to take with you.

- The Chevaller DANCENY!

I was at M. the Vilco

Paris, Dec. 6, at night, 17-1 .va

I. E. T. P. E. R. CLXIII.

pears, by the note which I found to

M. BERTRAND to Medame de Rose,

Madam,

IT is with the greatest grief I find myself obliged to fulfil my duty, by giving you as imelligence that will cause you so much affliction. Permit me first to recommend the exertion of Vos. IV.

that pious relignation which every one has so often admired in you, and which alone can support us among the evils of this miserable life.

M. your nephew — Good God I must i afflict so respectable a lady! M. your nephew, had the misfortune to fall this morning in a duel he sought with M. the Chevalier Danceny. I am entirely unacquainted with the cause of the quarrel: but it appears, by the note which I found in M. the Viscount's pocket, and which I have the honour to send you; it appears, I say, he was not the aggressor: and yet heaven permitted him to fall!

I was at M. the Viscount's, waiting for him, at the very time he was brought back to his hotel. You cannot conceive the shock I received, seeing M. your nephew brought in by two of his servants, bathed in blood. He had two thrusts of a sword in his body,

body, and was very weak. M. Danceny was also there, and even wept. Ah! certainly he ought to weep—it is a pretty time to cry when one has been the cause of an irreparable misfortune!

For my part, I could not contain myfelf; and notwithstanding my infignificancy, I could not help telling bim my thoughts. But it was then M. the Viscount shewed himself truly great: he commanded me to hold my tongue; and he even took his murderer by the hand, called him his friend, embraced him before us three, and faid to us, " I command you to have " for this gentleman all the respect "that is due to a brave and gallant man." Moreover, he ordered to be given him, in my prefence, fome very voluminous papers, that I know nothing of, but which I know he fet a value on? Then the defired they should be left together for a little -oT K 2 while 3

estida.

while; however, I fent immediately for affiltance, as well spiritual as temporal: but, also the evil, was without remedy. In lefs than half an hour after, M. the Vilcount was infenfible. He could only receive the extreme unction; and the seremony was fearcely over, before he breathed he officiency. I could not helafield

no Great God I when I neceived in my arms at his birth this precious prop of fo illustrious a family, could hever have thought he would expire in may arms, and that I should deplete his Heath to a death fo futlden, and fo unforcunate !-- my tears flow in spite of me. I alk pardon, Madam, for taking the liberty of mingling my forrows with yours nobut in every flation, tendernels and fentility will operate; and I should be very ungraceful if I did not lament, during my life, a abbleman who was is kind. and placed fuch a confidence in the. To-

KZ

To-morrow, when the body will be removed, I will order every thing to be fealed, and you may depend on my care intirely in every thing. I need not inform you, Madam, this unhappy event puts an end to the entail, and leaves you entirely at liberty. If I can be of any service, I beg, Madam, you will give me your orders which shall be executed with the greatest zeal and utmost punctuality.

I am, with the most profound respect, ting year at Medamoutor sail of they only

mont stidy a salage your mion bumble

Source DIBERTRAND.

Paris, Dec. 7, 17vou lent a.e.

he was the aggreffor, my infelking therefore is, you thould commence a profession in my name; for although my nephew, to compliance with his natural generoliti, andy have paydonet he chemy, his murderer, I ough:

To morrow, when the body will

moved I will order every thing

LETTER CLXIV.

Madame de Rosemonde to M...
BERTRAND.

I THIS instant received your letter, my dear Bertrand, informing me of the shocking event, to which my nephew is become the unhappy victim—yes, undoubtedly, I shall have orders to give you; and it is they only can take off my thoughts a while from this afflicting intelligence.

M. Danceny's challenge, which you sent me, is a convincing proof he was the aggressor; my intention therefore is, you should commence a prosecution in my name: for although my nephew, in compliance with his natural generosity, may have pardoned his enemy, his murderer, I ought

to avenge at once his death, religion, and humanity. One cannot excite too much the feverity of the laws against those remains of barbarism which still infect our morals; and I do not believe, in such cases, the forgiveness of injuries can be commanded us; therefore I expect you will profecute this bufiness with all that zeal and activity of which I know you so capable, and which you owe to my nephew's memory

But first, take care to confer with M. the Prefident from me. II do not write to him, as I am fo overwhelmed with grief. You will, therefore, apologife for me, and commupicate this to himsel despitou no not

Adieu, my dear Bertrand! I am well pleafed with your conduct, and thank you for your good inclinations, and am your fincere friend. He stand

- in Castle of was ivraligant veri lay meni Dec. 8, 17- in moioffill and store

LET-

LETTER CLXV.

co avence at once his death, religiou.

and humanity. One cannot excite

Madame de Volanges to Madame de Rosemonde,

ed us therefore I expect you wall KNOW you are already informed, my fear and worthy friend, of the loss you have fulfained. I know the tender affection you had for Mo de Valmont, and I most fincerely partake of the affliction you must endure I am erally grieved to add new griefs to those you have already experienced: but alast nothing now can be done for our unhappy friend but to deplote her fate. We loft her at eleven o'clock last night. By a fatality linked to hor face, and which fermed to baffle all human prudence, this thort interval that the furvived M. de Valmont was fufficient to inform her of his

his death, and, as the faid herfelf, not be able to fink under the weight of. her miferies until their meafure was. infiglient At first I endeaven bellit

Wou already know, that for thefe two days the was intentible; -- yefterday morning, when her physician cameliand we drew near her bed, the did not know either of us, and we could not obtain a word or a fign. We were fcarcely peturned to the fire. white the physician was relating to me the melancholy evene of M. de Walmont's death, but this unhappy woman recovered her realist a whether nature alone produced this revolution or whether it was occasioned by the frequent irepetition of the words, M. de Valmone and death, which may have proceded the only ideas with which her miod had been fo long engaged assid stood of mid par

Be lit what cit may, who duddenly drewback the contain of the bed exbinon

K 5

claims

"fay? M. de Valmont dead!" I hoped to make her believe the was mistaken. At first I endeavoured to persuade her she did not hear well: but all in vain; for she insisted the physician should begin the cruel tale again; — on my endeavouring to dissuade her from it; she called me to her, saying, in a low voice, "Why " will you deceive me? Was he not already dead to me?" I then was forced to acquiesce doubted.

Our unhappy friend appeared at first to listen to the story with great tranquillity: but she soon interrupted him, saying, "Enough; I know enough:" and immediately ordered her curtains to be closed — When the physician went to perform the duties of his office; she never would suffer him to come near her,

yla As foon as, he was gone, the alfofent away her nurse and her waiting maid.

maid. When we were alone, the requested I would affist her to kneel on her bed, and support her. Then she remained fome time filent; - and without any other expression than her tears, which flowed most abundantly, joining her hands, and raising them towards heaven; "Almighty God!" faid she in a weak but fervent tone, "I fubmit to thy just judgment: but in thy mercy forgive Valmont. " Let-not my misfortunes, which I " acknowledge, be laid to his charge, " and I shall bless thy mercy!" I could not avoid, my dear and worthy friend, going into those digressions on a subject I am sensible must renew and aggravate your forrows, as I am cerrain this prayer of Madame de Tourvel's will give you much confolation.

After our friend had uttered those few words she fell in my arms; and she was scarcely settled in her bed, when she fainted for a considerable

COMIN

K 6 time,

time, and recovered with the ulital helps. As foon as the came to herfelf, the begged I would fend for Father Anfelmus, faying, "He is the only physician I have now occa- "fron for. I feel my miseries will the foon be at lend." She complained of a great oppression, and spoke with great difficulty.

Some time after, the ordered her waiting maid to give me a little box, which I fend you, that contains papers belonging to her, and charged me to fend them to you immediately after her death.* Then the converted about you, of your friendship for her, as much as her fituation would permit, and with great tendernels.

Pather Anselmus came about four o'clock, and flayed near an hour alone with her. When we returned, her

is a words the lighten and arms a

. TIME

This box contained all the letters relative

countenance was calm and ferenc; but it was easily to be feen Father Anfelmus had wept a great deal. He remained to affift at the last ceremonies of the church. This folemn and melancholy fight became more so by the contrast of the composed and settled refignation of the fick person, with the silent grief of the venerable confessor, who was dissolved in tears beside her. The afficting scepe became general, and she who we all deplored was the only one unmoved.

The remainder of the day was spent in the usual prayers, which was now and then interrupted by the frequent faintings of the dear woman. At last, about eleven, the seemed more in pain, with great oppression. I put out my hand to feel her arm; the had still strength to place it on her heart; I could no longer feel it beat, and, indeed, our unhappy friend expired instantly.

You may remember, my dear friend, . when you last came to town, about a year ago, chatting together about some people whose happiness then appeared to us more or less complete, we indulged ourselves in the thought of this same woman's felicity, whose misfortune we now lament. Such an affemblage of virtues! fo many attractions and accomplishments! fo fweet. fo amiable ! a husband she loved, and by whom the was adored? a circle of friends, in whom the delighted, and was the delight! a figure, youth, fortune! fo many united advantages are loft by one act of imprudence! O, Providence! how incomprehensible and adorable are thy decrees ! - I fear I shall increase your forrow by giving way to my own, and therefore will no longer dwell on the melancholy theme.

My daughter is a little indisposed.

On hearing from me this morning the

the sudden death of two persons of her acquaintance, she was taken ill, and I ordered her to be put to bed. I hope, however, this slight disorder will not be attended with any bad consequence. At her age they are not accustomed to such chagrines, and they leave a more lively and stronger impression. This active sensibility is certainly a laudable quality. What we daily see ought to make us dread it. Adieu, my dear and worthy friend!

him as the firmer see, as you delied, Peris, Dec. 9, 17 on to bloom I

vice. This infredable magnified confined confined the to soon, the profession you introduced againful. M. the Chevaller Danceny would equally affect the mensory of Monthers trade peakew, and his honour world need the court trade of the court

the finden death of two molecules of

and I ordered her as belought in hed. TER CLXVI

shops adquaincance, the was taken all,

M. BERTRAND to Madame de Rose-MONDE. La Lamolles

leave a more lively an ambaM. IN confequence of the orders you honoured me with, I waited on M. the Prefident de ____, and communicated your letter to him, informing him at the same time, as you defired, I should do nothing without his ad-This respectable magistrate commanded me to observe to you, the profecution you intended against M. the Chevalier Danceny would equally affect the memory of Monfieur your nephew, and his honour would necessarily be tainted by the decree of the court; which would be, doubtles, a very great misfortune. His

His opinion is, then, that you do not make any stir about the matter: but, on the contrary, that you should endeavour as much as possible to prevent the public officers from taking cognisance of this unfortunate business, which has already made too much noise.

These observations, so replete with wildom, oblige me to wait your farther orders.

Permit me, Madam, to request, when you honour me with them, you will mention a word concerning your state of health, which, I dread much, so many crosses have impaired.

I hope you will pardon the liberty I take, as it proceeds from my zeal and attachment.

I am, with great respect,
Madam, your, &c.

appear to much in pinches as you have

Paris, Dec. 10, 17-

The opinion is, then, that you do not

make any fin about the matter : but,

EETTER CLXVII.

Anonymous to the Chevalier DAN-

ment is now its nert. LHAVE the honour to inform you, your late affair with M. the Viscount de Valmont was this morning much talked of among the King's counsel within the bar, and that it is much to be feared the public officers will commence a profecution. I thought this notice might be of fervice, either to fet your friends at work, to ftop Ithe had confequences, or, in cafe you could not fuceeed, to take every precaution for your personal security.

If you would permit me to add a. piece of advice, I think you would do well, for some time at least, not to appear so much in public as you have

done:

done for fome days - Although the world generally have great indulgence for those kind of affairs, yet there is a respect due to the laws which ought to be observed.

This precaution appears to me the more necessary, that I recollect a Madame de Rosemonde, who, I am told, is M. de Valmont's aunt, intended to profecute you if for the courts could not refuse her petition: it would perhaps be proper application should be made to this lady, with most red vi

Particular reasons prevent me from figning this letter; but I hope, though ighorant from whom is comes, you will nevertheless do justice to the fertiment that has dictated its fib wind

impression they leave, por to be form-I have the honour to be, &c,

Paris, Dec. 10, 17. 11 191 90 19 (18) they unight be dopt in time, and he-

-irrod

fore they 'pread abe as to be 1 8 8 8

not know until law velterday, the LET- done for force days - Although the world generally have great indul-

LETTER CLXVIII.

Madame de Volanges to Madame
de Rosemonde.

came de Rofentonde, jubo, I am tol-LHERE are, my dear and worthy friend, the ffrangeft and most fad reports spread here, on account of Madame de Merteuil. I am certainly far from giving any credit to them; and I would venture to lay a wager, they are horrible flanders; but I know soo well, how the most improbable wickedness readily gains credit; and how difficult it is to wipe away the impression they leave, not to be alarmed at those, though I think them so easy to be refuted. I wish, especially, they might be stopt in time, and before they spread abroad; but I did not know until late yesterday, the horriwhen I sent this morning to Madame de Merteuil's, the was just then set out for the country for a couple of days. I could not learn where she was gone; her second woman, who I sent for, told me, her mistress had only given her orders to expect her on Thursday next; and none of her servants she less behind her knew any thing more. I cannot even think where she can be; as I do not recollect any of her acquaintance who stay so late in the country is has very so late in the

However, you will be able, I hope, to produce for me, between this and her return, some occlair differents that may be useful to her; sonthese odious stories are sounded on circumstances attendant on the death of M. de Valmont, of which you will probably have been informed, if there he any truth in them; or you can at least teadily receive information, which I

vodi

par-

particularly request you to do — This is what is published, or at least whise pered as yet, but will not certainly fail to blaze out more.

It is faid the quarrel between Mi. de Valmont and Chevalier Danceny, is the work of Madame de Mertenil. who deceived them both; and, as it always happens, the rivals began by fighting, and did not come to an ecelaircissement until after, which produced a fincere reconciliation; and in order to make M. de Merteuil known to Chevalier Danceny, and also in his own justification, M. de Valmont had added to his intelligence, a heap of letters, forming a regular correspondence which he had kept up with her in which the relates, in the loofest manner, the most scandalous anecdotes of therfelf, nov doldw to mood

It is added, that Danceny in his first rage gave those letters to whoever had a mind to see them; and that now they

they are all over Paris—Two of them in particular, are quoted; in one of which, the gives a full history of her life and principles, which are said to be the most shocking imaginable—the other contains an entire justification of M. de Prevan, whose story you may recollect, by the proofs it gives, that he did nothing but acquiesce in the most pointed advances M. de Merteuil made him, and the rendezvous agreed on with her.

But I have fortunately the strongest reasons to believe those imputations as false as they are odious. First, we both know that M. de Valmont was not engaged about Madame de Merteuil; and I have all the reason in the world to think, Danceny was as far from thinking of her: so that I think it is demonstrable, that she could not be either the cause or object of the

Letters lxxxi. and lxxxy.

. tear-parts

quarrel. Neither can I comprehend what interest M. de Merteuil could have, who is supposed to be combined with M. de Prevan, to act a part which must be very disagreeable, by the noise it would occasion, and might be very dangerous for her, because she would thereby make an irreconcileable enemy of a man who was in possession of a part of her secrets, and who had then many partizans. Still it is observable, fince that adventure, not a fingle voice has been raised in favour of Prevan, and that even there has not been the least obiection made on his fide fince. al alod

These residences would induce me to suspect him to be the author of the reports that are now spread abroad, and to look on those enormities as the work of the revenge and hatred of a man who, finding himself lost in the opinion of the world, hopes, by such means, at least to raise doubts, and

per-

perhaps make a useful diversion in his favour; but whatever cause they may proceed from, the best way will be to destroy such abominable tales as soon as possible; they would have dropped of themselves, if it should happen, as is very probable, that M. de Valmont and Danceny did not speak to each other after their unhappy affair, and that there had been no papers given.

Being impatient to be satisfied as to the truth of those facts, I sent this morning to M. Danceny's; he is not in Paris either; his servants told my valet de chambre, he had set out last night, on some advice he had received yesterday, and the place of his residence was a secret; probably he dreads the consequence of his affair; it is only from you then, my dear and worthy friend, I can learn such interesting particulars, that may be necessary for M. de Merteuil—I renew my Vol. IV.

request, and beg you will send them to me as foon as possible.

P. S. My daughter's indisposition had no bad consequences. She presents her respects.

Paris, Dec. 11, 17 .-

LETTER CLXIX.

The Chevalier DANCENY to Madame
de Rosemonde.

Madam,

You will perhaps think the step I now take very extraordinary; but I befeech you to hear before you condemn me, and do not look for either audacity or rashness, where there is nothing but respect and considence. I will not dissemble the injury I have done you; and during my whole life I should

I should never forgive myself, if I could for one moment think it had been possible for me to avoid it; Lalfo beg, Madam, you will be perfuaded, although b feel myfelf exempt from reproach, I am not exempt from forrow; and I can with the greatest fincerity add, those I have caused you have a great share in those I feel. To believe in those sentiments which I now prefume to affure you of, it will be enough you do yourself justice, and know, that without the honour of being known to you, yet I have that cofoknowing you. vasoileb ved chemist

Still whilft I lament the fatality which has caused at once your grief and my misfortune, I am taught to believel that totally taken up with a thirst for revenge, you fought means to fariate it even in the feverity of the venge is necessited, or rather, . twill a

Permit me first to observe on this fubject, that here your grief deceives bus L 2 you; you; for my interest in this circumstance is so intimately linked with M. de Valmont's, that his memory would be involved in the same sentence you would have excited against me. I should then reasonably suppose, Madam, I should rather expect assistance than obstacles from you, in the endeavours I should be obliged to make, that this unhappy event should remain buried in oblivion.

But this resource of complicity, which is equally savourable to the innocent and guilty, is not sufficient to satisfy my delicacy; in wishing to set you asside as a party. I call on you as my judge: the esteem of those I respect is too dear, to suffer me to lose yours without desending it, and I think I am surnished with the means.

For if you will only agree, that revenge is permitted, or rather, that a man owes it to himself, when he is betrayed in his love, in his friendship, and

and still more, in his considence. If you agree to this, the wrongs I have done will disappear: I do not ask you to believe what I say; but read, if you have the resolution, the deposit I put into your hands*; the number of original letters seem to authenticate those, of which there is only copies. Moreover, I received those letters, as I have the houour to transmit them to you, from M. de Valmont himself. I have not added to them, nor have I taken any from them but two letters, which I thought proper to publish.

The one was necessary to the mutual vengeance of M. de Valmont and myself, to which we had an equalright, and of which he expressly gave

^{*} It is from this correspondence, from that given at the death of M. de Tourvel, and the letters confided to M. Rosemonde, by Madame de Volanges, that the present collection has been compiled; the originals are still existing in the possession of Madame de Rosemonde's heirs.

STI

me a charge. I moreover thought, it would be doing an effential fervice to fociety, to unmark a woman foreally dangerous as Madame de Merteuil is, and who, as you fee, is the only, the true cause, of what happened between M. de Valmont and me.

A sentiment of justice induced me to publish the second, for the justification of M. de Prevan, whom I searcely know, but who did not in the least deserve the rigorous treatment he has met, nor the severity of the public opinion, shift more formidable, under which he has languished so long, without being able to make any defence.

You will only find copies of those two letters, as I make it a point to keep the originals. I do not think I can put into safer hands a deposit, which, perhaps, I think of consequence to me not to be destroyed, but which.

Linuid Walter of Rolling

I should be ashamed to abuse. I think, confiding those papers to you, Madam, I serve those who are interested, as well as if I returned them to themselves, and I preserve them from the embarrassinent of receiving them from me, and of knowing I am no stranger to events, which undoubtedly they wish all the world to be unacquainted with.

I should, however, inform you, the annexed correspondence is only a part of a much more voluminous collection from which M. de Valmont drew it in my presence, and which you will find at the taking off the seals, entitled as I saw, An open account between the Marchioness de Merteuil and Viscount de Valmont. On this you will take what measures your prudence will suggest. I am with great respect,

Madam, &c.

L 4

P. S. Some

P. S. Some advices I have received, and the opinion of some friends, have made me resolve to leave Paris for some time; but the place of my retreat, which is secret to every one, must not be so to you. If you do me the honour of an answer, I beg you will direct it to the commandery of—by P.—and under cover, to M. the commander of—It is from his house I have the honour to write to you.

and the thing the contribution to be

our chart sait he government as the first

and and analysis ships the

Paris, Dec. 12, 17-

LET-

making maid had not feet been militar

you my brankles! I bud all aly feet

to guidan wood yad arove the oder

Modame de Volanges to Madame de Rosemonde.

I GO, my dear friend, from wonder to wonder, from forrow to forrow: one must be a mother to conseive my sufferings all yesterday morning — If my cruel uneasiness has been since alleviated, there still remains a piercing affliction, of which I cannot see the end.

Yesterday, about ten in the morning, surprised at not seeing my daughter, I sent my waiting maid to know what could occasion this delay — She returned instantly much frightened, and frightened me much more, by telling me my daughter was not in her apartment, and that since morning her L 5 waiting

waiting maid had not seen her. Judgeyou my situation! I had all my servants called, particularly the porter,
who all swore they knew nothing of
her, nor gave me any intelligence on
this occasion. I went in mediately,
into her apartment; the disorder it was
in soon convinced me, she did not go
out until morning, but could not discover any thing to clear up my doubts.
I examined her drawers, her bureau;
sound every thing in its place, and all
her cloaths except the dress she had on
when she went out: she did not even
take the little money she had.

As she did not know until yesterday all that is said about M. de Merteuil; that she is very much attached to her; so much, that she did nothing but cry all night after—I also recollect she did not know M. de Merteuil was in the country; it struck me she went to see her friend, and that she was so foolish as to go alone: but the time clapsing,

and no account of her, recalled all my uneafines - Every instant increased my anxiety; and burning with impatience for information, I dared not take any step to be informed, lest I should give cause for a rumour, which perhaps I should afterwards with to hide from all the world. In my life I never suffered fo much.

At length, at past two o'clock, I received together a letter from my daughter, and one from the superior of the convent of ---- My daughter's Petter only informed me, the was afraid I would appose the vocation she had to a religious life, which the did not dare mention to me; the rest was only excusing herself for having taken this resolution without my leave, being affured I certainly would not disapprove it, if I knew her motives, which, however, the begged I would not enquire into on the House on ha or

which I would be south as we The

The superior informed me, that seeing a young person come alone, she at first resused to receive her; but having interrogated, and learning who she was, she thought she served me, by giving an asylum to my daughter, not to expose her to run about, which she certainly was determined on doing. The superior offered me, as was reasonable, to give up my daughter, if I required it; inviting me at the same time, not to oppose a vocation she calls so decided.

She writes me also, she could not inform me sooner of this event, by the difficulty she had of prevailing on my daughter to write to me; whose intent was, that no one should know where she had retired — What a cruel thing is the unreasonableness of children.

I went immediately to this convent.

After having seen the superior, I defired to see my daughter; she came trembling, with some difficulty — I spoke

to her before the nuns, and then alone. All I could get out of her with a deal of crying, was, the could not be happy but in a convent; I resolved to give her leave to flay there; but not to be ranked among those who defired admittance as the wanted. I fear M. de Tourvel's and M. de Valmont's deaths have too much affected her young head. Although I respect much a religious vocation, I shall not without forrow, and even dread, fee my daughter embrace this state - I think we have already duties enow to fulfil, without creating ourselves new ones: moreover, it is not at her age we can judge what condition is fuitable for us.

What increases my embarrassment, is the speedy return of M. de Gercourt — Must I break off this advantageous match? How then can one contribute to their children's happinels, if our wishes and cares are not sufficient.

fufficient? You would much oblige me to let me know how you would act in my Gruation; I cannot fix on any thing. There is nothing for dreadful as to decide on the fate of others; and I am equally afraid, on this occasion, of using the severity of a judge, or the weakness of a modeaths have the much affected met

Jalways reproach myfelf with increasing your griefs, by telating mine; but I know your heart; the confolation you could give others, would be the greatest you could poffibly receive many modern dated of

Adieu, my dear and worthy friend! I expect your two answers with the greatest impatience.

court - Aller Recological Print - Aller

sed has place with a driver toosen.

second elebels listo dischifet and there

Panis, Dec. 13, 17-

-1961

nor ous owned best colline on LET

phew. & Notwick funding this faults.

which I am forced to confere, I feel I

that! never be confoled for his lots: but IXXII and IRCT AND the

Madame de Rosemonde to the Chevalien Dangeny.

THE information you have given me, Sir, leaves me no room for any thing but forrow and filence. One regrets to live, when they hear fuch horrible actions; one must be assumed of their fex, when they fee a woman capable of such abominations.

power, Sir, as far as Lam concerned, to bury in filence and forgetfulness every thing that could leave any trace or consequence to those melancholy events. I even wish they may never give you any other uneasiness than these inseparable from the unhappy advantage you gained over my nephew.

Maria

phew. Notwithstanding his faults, which I am forced to confess, I feel I shall never be consoled for his loss: but my everlasting affliction will be the only revenge I shall ever take on you; I leave it to your own heart to value its extent.

Will you permit my age to make a reflection which feldom occurs to your's? which is, if rightly underflood what is folid happiness, we should never seek it beyond the bounds prescribed by religion and the laws.

You may be very certain I will faithfully and willingly keep the desposit you have consided to me: but I must require of you to authorise me not to deliver it to any one, not even to yourself, Sir, unless it should be necessary for your justification. I dare believe you will not refuse me this request, and that it is now unnecessary to make you sensible we often figh

figh for having given way to the most

I have not yet done with my requisitions, persuaded as I am of your generofity and delicacy : it would be an act worthy both, to give me up also Mademoiselle de Volanges's letters, which you probably may have preserved, and which, no doubt, are no longer interesting. I know this young creature has used you badly ;but I do not think you mean to punish. her; and was it only out of respect to yourfelf, you will not debase an object you loved fo much. I have, therefore, no occasion to add, the respect the girl is unworthy of, is well due to the mother, to that respectable woman, who may lay some claim to a reparation from you; for, indeed, whatever colour one may feek to put on a pretended fentimental delicacy, he who first attempts to seduce a virtuous and innocent heart, by that meafure

fure becomes the first abettor of its corruption, and should be for ever accountable for the excesses and disorders that are the consequence.

Do not be furprifed, Sir, at fo much feverity from me; it is the ftrongest proof I can give you of my perfect efteem. You will fill acquire an additional right to it, if you acquiefce, as I wifty to the concealing a fecret, the publication of which would prejudice pourfels, and give a mortal frab to a maternal heart you have already wounded. In a word, Sir, I wish to render this fervice to my friend and if I had the leaft apprehention you would refute me this confolation, I would defire you to think first, it is the only one you had peruise from you; for, indeed sometel

had to I have the honour to be, &c.

Dec. 15, 17—.

fure

LET-

ton Him is borishs ad mor navig ad

exceed the much. I think my dear

LETTER CLXXIL

Madame de Rosemonde to Madame
de Volanges.

IF I had been obliged to fend to Paris, my dear friend, and wait for an answer to the ecclair is for an answer to the ecclair is for many madants de Merteuil, it would not have been possible to give them to you yet, and even then they would be, doubtless, vague and uncertaint but I received some I did not expect, that I had not the least reason to expect, and they are indubitable. O, my dear friend it how greatly you have been deceived in this woman!

I have great reluctance to enter into the particulars of this heap of shocking abominations; but let what will

be

be given out, be affured it will not exceed the truth. I think, my dear friend, you know me fufficiently to take my word, and that you will not require from me any proof. Let it suffice to tell you, there is a multitude of them, which I have now in my possession.

It is not without the greatest trouble I must also make you the same request, not to oblige me to give my motives for the advice you require concerning Mademoiselle de Volanges. Il intreat you not to oppose the your tion she shows.

Gertainly, no reason whatever should authorise the forcing a person into that state, when there is no call: but it is sometimes a great happiness when there is; and you see your daughter even tells you, if you knew her motives you would not disapprove them. He who inspires us with sentiments; knows better than our vain wisdom can

can direct, what is suitable to every one; and what is often taken for an act of severity, is an act of his clemency.

Upon the whole, my advice, which I know will afflict you, for which reafon you must believe I have restected well on it, is, that you should leave Mademoiselle de Volanges in the convent, since it is her choice; and that you should rather encourage than counteract the project she has formed; and in expectation of its being put in execution, not to hesitate in breaking off the intended match.

Now that I have fulfilled those painful duties of friendship, and incapable as I am of adding any consolation, the only favour I have to request, my dear friend, is, not to put me any interrogatories on any subject relative to those melancholy events: let us leave them in the oblivion suitable to them; and without seeking useless

fredhan and

decrees of Providence, confiding on the wildom of sits views whenever it does not permit us to comprehend in them. Adien, my dear friend!

bec. 15; 17- when from now not svent bloom now not svent bloom now not say.

very floce it is ther choice; and that LETT ER, CLXXIII.

Madeumoifelle de Volanges in the con-

Madame de Volanges sto, Madame de
Rosamonde.

ALIAS, my dear friend! with what ha frightful veil do you cover the fate of my daughter; and feem to dread I should raise it! What can it hide, mhen, more afficking to a mother's sheart, than those horrible suspicions to which you give me up? The more afficking, your indulgence, the more my torments are increased.

increased. Twenty rimes fince last might, I wanted to the rid of these eruel uncertainties, and to beg you would inform me, without referre or nevalion, mand reach intimenthaddered. when I recollected your request not to be interrogated. At length, I have Thought on a way which fill gives me fome hope ; and I expedifrom your friendship, you will not refuse to grant my wish : which vis, to inform me if I have nearly understood what you might have toctelbine quot to be afraid to acquaint me with all a mother's renderness can hide, and is not impossible to be repaired. If my miferies exceed those bounds, then I confert to leave the explanation to your filence : here is, then, what I already know, and for far my fears exstended. i sala jagadasa , hustood .

My daughter showed a liking for Chevalier Danceny, and I was informed, she went so far as to receive letters

letters from him, and even to answer them; but I thought I had prevented this juvenile error from having any dangerous consequence: now that I am in dread of every thing, I conceive it possible my vigilance may have been deceived, and I dread my daughter being seduced may have compleated the measure of her sollies.

I now recall to mind feveral circumstances that may strengthen this apprehension. I wrote you, my daughter was taken ill, on the news of M. de Valmont's misfortune; perhaps, the cause of this sensibility was the idea of the dangers M. Danceny was exposed to in this combat. Since when, the wept to much on hearing every thing was faid of Madame de Merteuil; perhaps, what I imagined the grief of friendship, was nothing else but the effect of jealousy, or regret at finding her lover faithless. Her 233110

Hen last step may, I think, perhaps be explained by the same motive. Some, who have been disgusted with mankind, have imagined they received a call from heaven. In short, supposing those things to be so, and that you are acquainted with them, you may, no doubt, have thought them sufficient to justify the rigorous advice you give me.

And if matters should be so, at the same time I should blame my daughter, I should think myself bound to attempt every method to save her from the torments and dangers of an illusory and transitory vocation. If M. Danceny is not totally divested of every honourable sentiment, he will not surely resuse to repair an injury of which he is the sole author; and I also think, a marriage with my daughter, not to mention her samily, would be advantageously flattering to him,

Vol. Wowlene ben Mor sette in Thie

This, my dear and worthy friend, is my tast hope; hasten to confirm it, if possible. You may judge how impatient I shall be for an answer, and what a mortal blow your silence would give me.*

I was just closing my letter, when a man of my acquaintance came to see me, and related to me a cruel scene Madame de Merteuil had to go through yesterday. As I saw no one for some days, I heard nothing of this affair. I will recite it, as I had it from an eye witness.

Madame de Merteuil, at her return from the country on Thursday, was fet down at the Italian comedy, where she had a box; there she was alone; and what must appear to her very extraordinary, not a man came near her during the whole performance. At coming away, she went, according to

lic advantageously slacering to him?

custom,

This letter remained unanswered.

cuftom, into the little falcon, which was full of company; inflantly a buzzing began, of which probably the did not think herfelf the object. She observed an empty place on one of the feats, on which she fat down; but all the ladies who were feated on it immediately role, as if in concert, and test her intirely alone. This so pointed mark of general indignation was applanded by all the men, redoubled the murmurs, which, it is faid, were even at last increased to hootings.

That nothing should be wanting to compleat her humiliation, unfortunately for her, M. de Prevan, who had not appeared in public fince his adventure, made his appearance at that inftant. The moment he entered. every one, men and women, furrounded and applauded him; and he was juffled in fuch a manner, as to be brought directly opposite M. de Merteuil by the company who formed 41-11

M 2

a circle

a circle round him. It is afferted. the preferved the appearance of neither feeing or hearing any thing, and that the did not even change countenance; but I am apt to believe this last an exaggeration. However, this truly ignominious fituation lasted until her carriage was announced; and at her departure, those scandalous hootings and hiffings were again redoubled. It is shocking to be related to this woman. M. de Prevan received a most hearty welcome from all the officers of his corps who were there, and there is not the least doubt but he will be reftored foon to his rank. A sond bilded hi botations ton

The same person who gave me this information told me M. de Merteuil was taken the night following with a very violent sever, that was at first imagined to be the effect of the dreadful situation she was in; but last night the small pox declared itself, it is of the

the confluent kind, and of the worst fort. On my word, I think it would be the greatest happiness if it should carry her off. It is, moreover, reported, this affair will prejudice her most essentially in her depending lawfuit, which is soon to be brought to trial, and in which, it is said, she stood in need of powerful protection.

In all this I fee the hand of Providence punishing the wicked: but do not find any confolation for their unhappy victims.

dual shired wire titch reichdoorders.

The is, at least, what use that's rive

Keingelk impression on my mind, at

Paris, Dec. 18, 17-

reported permits of speam .

fled with the greatest in ignorion

LETTER CLXXIV.

the configere land, and of the world.

fore. On me want, historick it would

The Chevalier DANCENY to Madame
de Rosemonde.

YOU are very right, Madam; most certainly I will not resuse you any thing that depends on me, and on which you are inclined to set a value. The packet I have the honour to send you, contains all Mademoiselle de Volanges' letters. If you will take the trouble to read them, you will be assonished to see so much candour united with such persidiousness. This is, at least, what has made the strongest impression on my mind, at my last perusal of them.

But it is impossible to avoid being filled with the greatest indignation against M. de Merteuil, when one pains the took to destroy to much in-

No Madam, I am no longer in love. I have not the least spark of a fentiment so unworthily betrayed; and it is not love that puts me on means to justify Mademoiselle de Volanges. Still would not that innocent heart. that foft and easy temper, be moulded to good more readily than it was hurried to evil? What young person, just come out of a convent, without experience, and almost divested of ideas. and bringing with her into the world. as most always happens, an equal share of ignorance of good and evil; what young person could have refisted fuch sulpable artifices more ? In ordery to inspire us with some indulgence, it is sufficient to reflect on how many circumstances, independent of us, is the frightful alevitampthouth have dreaded havings.

2012

vity of fentiment. You, then, did me justice, Madam, in believing me incapable of having any idea of revenge, for the injuries I received from Mademoiselle de Volanges, and which, notwithstanding, I selt very sensibly. The sacrifice is great, in being obliged to give over loving her: but the attempt would be too great for me to hate her.

I had no need of reflection to wish every thing that concerns, or that could be prejudicial to her, should ever be kept secret from the world. If I have appeared something dilatory in sulfilling your wishes on this occasion, I believe I may tell you my motive; I wished first to be certain I should not be troubled on my late unhappy affair. At a time when I was soliciting your indulgence, when I even dared to think I had some right to it, I should have dreaded having the

the least appearance in a manner of purchasing it by this condescension: certain of the purity of my motives, I had, I own, the vanity to wish you could not have the least doubt of them.

I hope you will pardon this delicacy, perhaps too susceptible, to the veneration with which you have inspired me, and to the great value of your esteem.

The same sentiment makes me request as a savour, you will be so obliging to let me know if you think I have sulfilled all the obligations the unhappy circumstances I was in required. Once satisfied on this point, my resolution is taken; I set out for Malta: there I shall with pleasure take and religiously keep vows which will separate me from a world, with which, though young, I have so much reason to be dissatisfied—I will endeavour in a foreign clime, to lose the idea of so

nac

many accumulated horrors, whose remembrance can only bring forrow to my head.

vould not seem with the greatest respect, but could not be repeated to the seem bloom this delicacy.

perion which word have have have

AT length, my dear and worthy friend, Madame de Merteuil's fate is determined; and it is fuch, that her greatest enemies are divided between the indignation she deserves, and the compassion she raises. I was right, when I wrote you it would be happy for her to have died of the small pox. She is recovered, it is true, but horribly disfigured; and has lost an eye. You may well imagine, I have not seen her; but I have been informed she is a hideous spectacle.

The

The Marquis of —— who never lofes an opportunity of faying a farcal-tical thing, speaking of her yesterday, said, that her disorder had turned her inside out; that now her mind was painted on her countenance. Unfortunately all present thought the remark very just.

Another event adds to her diffraces and her misfortunes: her lawfuit came to a trial the day before yesterday, and she was cast by the unanimous opinion of all the judges; costs of suit, damages, and interest.

All in favour of the minors: so that the little she had exclusive of this suit, is all swallowed, and more too by the expences.

As foon as the was informed of this news, although still ill, she set off post in the night alone — Her people say to-day, that not one of them would accompany her; it is imagined she has taken the road to Holland.

This

This sudden slight raises the general outery more than all the rest; as she has carried off all her diamonds, which are a very considerable object; and were a part of her husband's succession; her plate, her jewels, in short every thing the could; and has lest behind her debts to the amount of 50,000 livres—it is an actual bank-ruptcy.

The family are to assemble to-morrow to take some measures with the creditors. Although a very distant relation, I have offered to contribute, but I was not at this meeting, being obliged to affist at a more melancholy ceremony. To-morrow my daughter will put on the habit of novice; I hope you will not forget, my dear friend, my only motive in agreeing to this sacrifice, is the silence you keep with me.

M. Danceny quitted Paris about a fortnight ago it is faid he is gone to Malta,

Malta, to settle: perhaps it would be yet time enough to prevent him? My dear friend, my daughter was very culpable then! You will undoubtedly excuse a mother being difficult in acquiescing to such a dreadful truth.

What a fatality I am involved in for some time past, and has wounded me in my dearest connections! My

daughter and my friend.

Who can refrain being struck with horror at the misfortunes one dangerous connection may cause, and how many sorrows and troubles would be avoided by seriously reflecting on this point! Where is the woman who would not fly the first advances of a seducer? What mother would not tremble to see any other but herself speak to her daughter? But those cool reflections never occur until after the event. And one of the most important and generally acknowledged truths, is stiffed and

and uteless in the vortex of our abland

Farewel, my dear and worthy friend!

I now feel, our reason, which is inadequate to prevent missortunes, is
still less to administer consolation*.

ni bevieve me l' villatel a mil we

Panis, Jan. 14, 17 5 ven at ser

* Particular reasons and considerations, which we shall always think it our duty to respect, oblige us to stop here.

We cannot at this time give the reader neither the continuation of M. de Volanges' adventures, nor the finister events which fulfilled the miseries or ended M. de Merteuil's Punishment.

We shall be permitted, perhaps, some time or other, to compleat this work, but we cannot pledge ourselves to this; even if we could, we should first think ourselves obliged to consult the taste of the public, who have not the same reasons we have to be concerned in this publication.

6" MA 50

